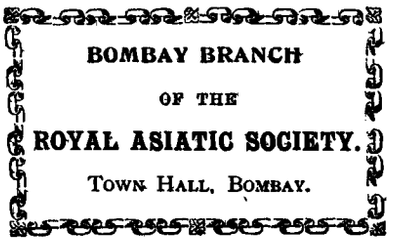
CX
u
39
00142095



Digitized with financial assistance from

Government of Maharashtra

on 01 February, 2020

NOTE ON EMIGRATION

FROM

INDIA TO BRITISH GUIANA.

142095

BY

SURGEON-MAJOR D. W. D. COMINS,

LATELY ON SPECIAL DUTY IN BRITISH AND FOREIGN COLONIES AND THE NETHERLANDS.

Calcutta:

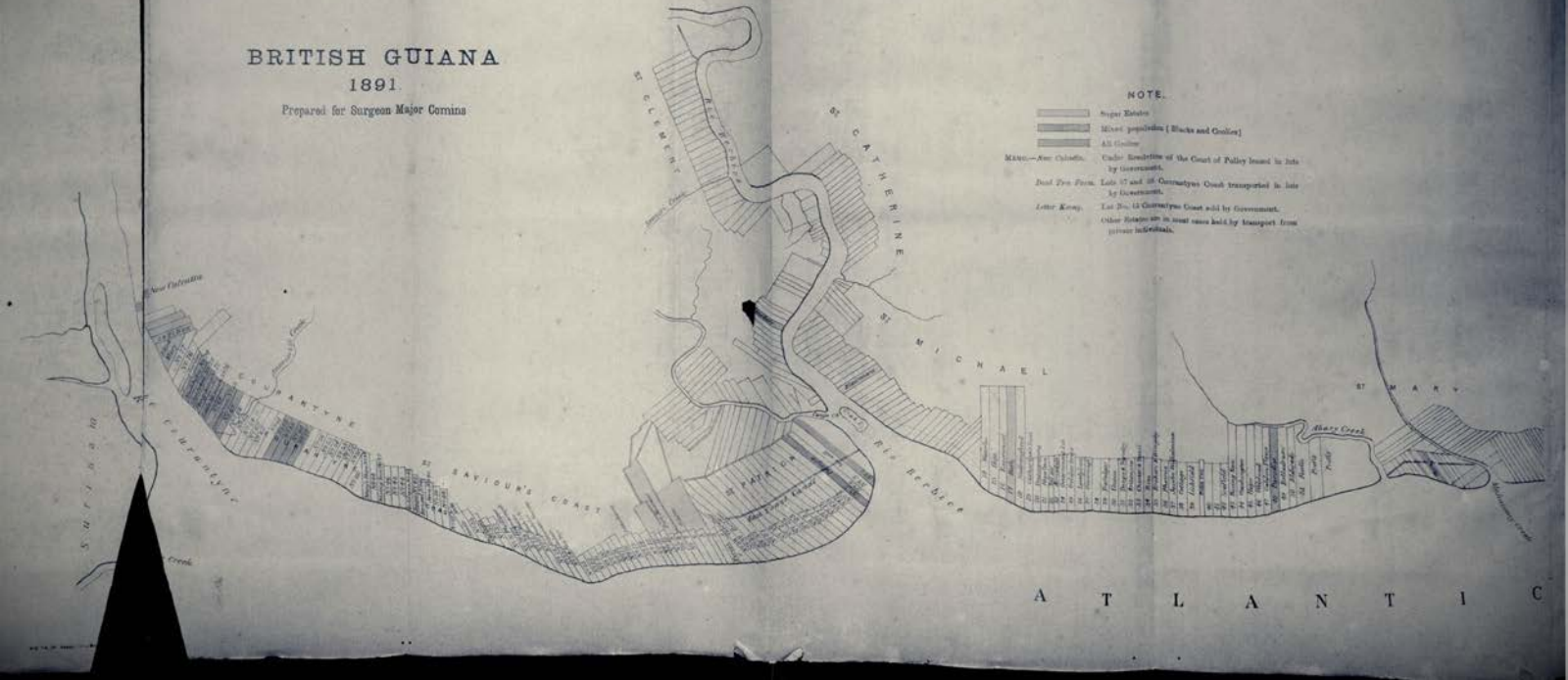
PRINTED AT THE BENGAL SECRETARIAT PRESS.

1893.

BRITISH GUIANA

1891

Prepared for Surgeon Major Comins


NOTE.
Sugar Estates
Mixed population [Blacks and Coolies]
All Coolies
Manr.—New Colonists. Under Resolution of the Court of Policy issued in Jan by Government.
Dead Tree Farm. Lots 17 and 18 Corentyne Coast transported in Jan by Government.
Letter Kenny. Lot No. 14 Corentyne Coast sold by Government.
Other Estates are in most cases held by transport from private individuals.
ST CATHERINE
ST MICHAEL
ST MARY
ST SAVIOUR'S COAST
CORENTYNE
SURINAM
ATLANTIC

INDEX.

	Page.
Absence from work	52
Amusements	80
Articles of diet, Duties on	94
Births at sea	18
Back passage	
Box money	100
Children returning to India	4
Casuals	22
Correspondence	27
Cattle	27
Commutation	28
Creoles—Number returning to India	48
Complaints under Labour Laws	67
Crown lands acquired by immigrants	75
Caste	79
Ceremonies, Religious	99
Colonial produce	3
Creole Indians	8
Creoles or Negros	5
Deaths	88
Diseases	91
Divorce	31
Desertion	50
Education	56
Estate, Plan of	2
Exhibits, Chicago Exhibition	
Free immigrants, Medical treatment of	82
—— passes	56
—— immigrants, Occupation of	66
Festivals, Holidays and	82
Gaol	68
Grants of land	69
Ganja	76
Gang robberies	98
Habitual idleness	55
Historical	1
House property owned by immigrants	69
Holidays and festivals	82
Hospitals, Joint	87
Immigrants—Number introduced	18
—— returned to India	45
Immigration—Ordinance of 1891	10
Intestate estates	38
Jewellery of immigrants returning to India	46
Joint hospitals	87
Lands, Crown	75
Lawyers, Village	77
Leprosy	93
Licenses, Number of	24
Madras immigrants, Proportion of	20
Medical and sanitary	88
Medical treatment of free immigrants	82
Marriage	31
Missionaries	61
Mortality	88
Murders	63
Non-effectives	20
Narcotics	76
Orphans	65
Occupations of free immigrants	66
Opium	76
Population, Total Indian	19
Proportion of Madras immigrants	20
Population resident on estates or employed by public establishments	23
Proportion of Creoles returning to India	41—48
—— immigrants returning to India	44
Probate duty	40

ROYAL ASIATIC SOCIETY LIBRARY OF THE BOMBAY BRANCH OF THE

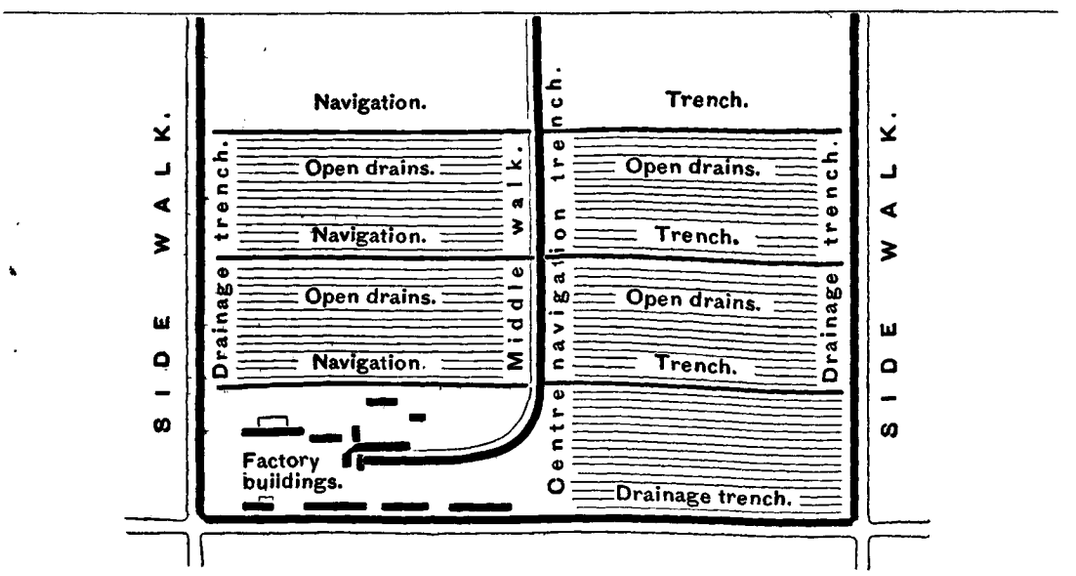
	Page.
Passages, Number of immigrants paying for return	44
Paupers returning to India	47
Passports	49
Passes, Free	56
Punishment, Penal	68
Property owned by immigrants	69
Petition-writers	77
Quarantine	92
Rations	78
Recommendations	100
Return immigrants	22
Remittances from India by return immigrants	23
——— to friends in India	27
——— to India by immigrants returning	46
Re-indenture	30
Return passage	40
Residence in Colony of immigrants returning to India	47
Robberies, Gang	98
Religious ceremonies	99
Rum, sale of	76
Savings of immigrants	25
Sea, mortality at	19
Settlements	69
Sickness	88
Social condition as to mixed marriages	95
Stimulants	76
Strikes	95
Succession duty	40
Suicides	65
Tax-payers, Value of immigrants as	94
Transfers	29
Vaccination	92
Vagrancy	55
Village lawyers	77
Welcome in the colony	17
Wills	40
Women, Proportion to males and treatment of	37

BRITISH GUIANA.

THE name "Guiana," the "Wild Coast," is given to that portion of the continent of South America which lies between 8° 40′ north, 3° 30′ south, and 50° and 68° 30′ west, and extends from the river Orinoco to the river Amazon. It is divided into Venezuelan, Dutch, French and Brazilian Guianas. According to Schomburgk, the earliest accounts extant relative to the coast of Guiana state that in 1550 some inhabitants of Zealand in Holland effected a settlement near the river Pomeroon, and subsequently on the banks of the Essequibo river. In 1613 these settlers reported the colony to be in a flourishing condition, and in 1621 the Government undertook to supply the colonists with Negro slaves from Africa. In 1657 the rivers Pomeroon and Morocca were settled anew by Zealanders, and the towns of New Zealand and New Middleburg erected on their banks. About the same time settlements had also been effected in the Berbice river. In 1732 a constitution appears to have been given to Berbice, and in 1739 to Demerara by the States General. The colonization of Demerara and Essequibo proceeded very slowly, and no mention is made of any settlement on the Demerara river until 1745, when the Directors of the Chamber of Zealand granted permission to lay out a plantation on the uninhabited banks of that river. In 1781 the British took possession of the whole of the Dutch West India colonies, but at the peace of 1783 they were restored to Holland, and were almost immediately seized by the French, who built forts on both sides of the mouth of the Demerara river. In 1796 the colonies of Demerara, Essequibo, and Berbice, being again in the possession of the Dutch, were surrendered anew to the British, under whose protection their agriculture and commerce increased rapidly; and before they were restored at the peace of Amiens in 1802 to the Batavian Republic, the exports had risen to nearly 20,000 hogsheads, equal to 35,840,000 lb of sugar, and about 10,000,000 lb of coffee. On the breaking out of the war in 1803, they were again surrendered to the British, in whose possession they have ever since remained, the neighbouring colony of Surinam being ceded to the Dutch. Berbice continued to be a separate colony until 1831, when it was united to Demerara and Essequibo, and the name of British Guiana given to the whole. The extent of sea facade from the Orinoco river to the Corentyne river is about 280 miles, and the interior depth from north to south varies from 300 to 400 miles; but it is difficult to determine with exactitude the area of the colony of British Guiana, since its boundaries not only on the side of Venezuela, but on that of Brazil, are not yet fully defined, though negociations with Venezuela are proceeding with that object. The interior of the colony, as yet only imperfectly explored and known only to the aboriginal Indians, is diversified by ranges of mountains, extensive savannahs and dense forests. At about 40 miles, or in some places less, from the sea, the higher uplands merge into the alluvial plains, terminating in a range of sand hills and detached groups of hillocks from 30 to 200 feet high. The coast lands and cultivated districts of the colony consist of an extensive mud flat or alluvial deposit, composed chiefly of blue clay impregnated with marine salt and rich in decomposed vegetable matter. In the forest or bush bordering the cultivated lands, and occasionally in the savannahs, extensive tracts of pegass (tropical peat) occur, sometimes of considerable depth. Formerly the same formation existed on a great part of the cultivated lands, but from continual tillage it has become exhausted. The alluvial plains are for the most part from three to four feet below the high-water mark of spring tides, and very extensive and solid "sea defences" are unavoidable to protect the land from the ravages of the sea and the spoiling of the soil by flooding with salt water. A most impressive sight it is, when miles inland, to see the white spray flash in the sun high above the intervening bushes, as a wave breaks on the sea dam, and craves reflection as to what would

happen if the dams fail. These sea defences are most expensive things, and hundreds of thousands of dollars worth of stone is flung yearly into the insatiable mud. This expense and that of steam drainage are to be hardly borne with a falling sugar market. Immediately along the coast line is a fringe of mangrove or courida bushes, whose growth is encouraged to break the force of the waves a well as to aid in binding the soil with their network of roots. At intervals in the sea dams are flood gates or "kokers," opened and shut as the tide rises and falls—a work usually entrusted to some old and well-tried cooly. The "kokers" are connected with the drainage systems, both natural and artificial, by which the low-lying strip of cultivated land is kept sufficiently dry for tillage, while here and there along the coast rise the tall chimneys and stately buildings of the sugar factories, which are the *raison d'être* of British Guiana. As a colony the alluvial plains extend from 10 to 40 miles inland, terminating there in a range of sand hills, beyond which are the beautiful uplands described by Schomburgk. On the sea edge, and in the case of the larger rivers for some miles along their banks and in the islands of the estuaries, extend the sugar estates, marked with mathematical regularity by the trenches and bunds or dams for drainage or navigation. A glance at the map, which has been prepared for me under the kind orders of the Lieutenant-Governor Sir Charles Bruce, K.C.M.G., will show the parallel arrangement of the estates and their component parts or "beds" of land peculiar to all Dutch cultivation in whatever part of the world it may be found, and of which some ancient and good specimens may be found in the painings of the old Dutch school in the National Gallery.

2. The following sketch plan shows the ordinary arrangement of trenches on a British Guiana sugar estate:—



When the dams are made up and the land cleared, the navigation and drainage systems are then laid out and the field outline and plan is complete. First a main drainage trench is opened behind the front dam and carried round the inner side of each side line till it reaches the back dam. Next a centre main navigation canal is dug from the back dam to the buildings in front of the estate with a "walk" along the canal. Then at every 36 rods along this centre canal at right angles right and left are dug smaller trenches which are connected with the main one. Each field is again divided into 12 beds by 11 open drains opening into the side line trench. There are no rivers, wells or tanks to supply drinking water. The rain water is collected from the roofs and stored in huge cisterns often holding many thousand gallons. Most of the people drink the nearly stagnant water of the trenches with which the whole country is intersected, and this water is more or less unwholesome and productive of fever. Many years ago some enterprizing planters dug the Lamaha canal to lead water from the sand hills to the south, through the miles of morass or pegass land that lie between the hills and the

cultivated strip of land that fringes the sea coast, but in course of time it silted up and became level with the savannah. All the estates connected with this canal, and of course the immigrants on them, periodically suffered severely from want of water. To the indomitable energy of Mr. William Russell, the "Sugar King," is owing the fine supply of fresh water that now flows among this tract of country, and proves of incalculable value to the estates and dwellers on its banks. The water is of a brown colour, but is not considered unwholesome, and good water is scarce in this part of the colony.

3. As showing the value of colonial products, I give below the exports for the last year up to the 15th December 1892.

The principal export is sugar, and its secondary products molasses and rum. Sugar is the staple product of the colony, and although beet-root has done much to lower the profits, science, better management, and machinery still allow it to hold its own. After that in importance must be placed the king of metals—gold. The history of the development of gold digging in this colony is very remarkable, and the outturn is increasing most rapidly, and is apparently inexhaustible. The streams in the North-Western district on the much disputed Venezuelan border are full of gold, and all the rivers which have their origin in the higher mountains inland contain more or less of the precious metal. Sir Walter Raleigh was right after all, and if he had continued his unhappily ending search, he must have discovered his Eldorado, even if the golden city of Manoa was a myth, for gold exists in large quantities and on the surface in many parts of Venezuela, British Guiana, Surinam, and French Guiana, and at all events as far south as the Amazon. These gold fields are yet hardly disturbed, and their area is immense, and there are magnificent possibilities in the future when they are properly opened up. Hitherto the difficulties of approach, the deadly air of the primeval forest, and the want of proper food, water, and shelter, have proved an effectual barrier to any organized attack. The only way to get to these far inland pools and streams, where the gold is to be had for the picking up, and which are surrounded by many miles of uninhabited and impenetrable jungle, is by many days' paddling in frail canoes through the violent rapids, the rocky reaches, and swirling eddies and whirlpools of these impetuous rivers. Waterfalls of height necessitate portage of boats through the slimy and pestilential forest. I accompanied the Governor and his party, in a large canoe towed by a steam-launch, up three of these rivers until we could go no further on account of the violence of the stream and the broken water. If in these lower rapids and easier gradients the current rushes with such speed, turbulence, and strength, the dangers of the upper reaches must be very great, and overturning of canoes and drowning of the occupants are of the commonest occurrence. The "bush" Indians, as the aboriginals of the interior are called, are magnificent paddlers and steerers, and I saw them shoot the centre of a rapid when the strength of the current was so great that the water in the middle of the river was apparently some feet higher than that near the sides, and the waves and broken water hid the canoe, that I thought once or twice it had sunk. To touch a rock or steer badly at such times is nearly always fatal. A great number of the most reckless ne'er-do-wells have found their way there, and 12,000 "blacks," the worst characters on the estates, are reported to be now working there. While I was in the colony, the Governor was busy completing the police arrangements to control the tendency to lawlessness inseparable from the collection of many thousand of such men. Gold is collected so quickly that a few weeks suffices to make a man the owner of more gold than it is safe for him to keep without the strong hand of the law, and he either sends it or takes it down himself in company with others in the same position. With characteristic recklessness, and notwithstanding the dangers of the passage, gambling and fights are common in these canoes, and at the first place drink can be procured there is a general and prolonged spree. Many diggers do not prospect on their own account, but work for wages, which are very high. In addition to the surface or "pocket" gold found in the depressions of present or old beds of streams, some strata of gold-bearing quartz have been recently discovered, and companies are being formed to work them. The figures of the table show that in less than one year the surface gold for which royalty has been paid has increased from 94,216 oz. to 120,840 oz.

In this colony Indian immigrants are not allowed to go to the gold diggings, where, being physically weaker than the negroes in the minority, and not overloved by the blacks, they would probably be roughly treated. When that land of promise, the North-Western district, which is the Indian immigrant settler's natural heritage, is fully opened up, no doubt coolies will take to gold washing in the rivers there.

The Barima river in this district now furnishes a large proportion of the gold procured in the colony. The figures for the 18 months ending March 1892 are as follow:—

	Gold in ounces from the Barima river.		
	1890.	1891.	1892.
January	...	50·966	859·175
February	...	131·062	1,762·543
March	...	144·120	2,836·215
April	...	14·772	...
May	...	522·356	...
June	...	235·772	...
July	...	975·034	...
August	...	954·081	...
September	...	1,148·715	...
October	...	1,635·343	...
November	129·118	790·333	...
December	11·954	2,922·774	...
	141·072	9,525·325	5,457·933

[for 3 months.]

Many coolies from Trinidad go across to Venezuela and accumulate large quantities of gold; but when I was in Trinidad these visits were not much in favour, as the attentions of the Venezuelans, if they discovered a cooly about to go back to Trindad with his gold, were apt to become too marked. In French Guiana some of the coolies are most successful gold diggers and speculators, and in Cayenne I met a cooly who owned "placers," employed gangs of diggers, and had made many thousand pounds in gold. When the projected railway is made to the British Guiana gold-fields, the jungle cut, and the place more civilized, there is no reason that I am aware of why coolies should not engage in gold digging and washing as in any other walk of life open to the free immigrant. In the Chicago World Fair, in the Mines Department, there is an exhibit of the gold industry of British Guiana shown by a series of gilded pyramids designed to typify the rise and development of the gold industry; while in a glass showcase there are gold-bearing strata from the Barima, the Potaro, and the Massaruni districts, arranged so as to represent the "pay-dirt" *in situ*; also a collection of nuggets, weighing in all over five lb, and worth over $1,100, obtained from the placers at Oumai and from Gilt Creek; the largest of the set being some 66 oz. in weight, as well as a very fine lot of auriferous quartz, and minerals, quartz, pay-dirt, &c., from various parts of the diggings.

COLONIAL PRODUCE.

Exported from 1st January to Thursday, 15th December 1892.

Sugar.

Hhds. 496. T'ces. 527. Brls. 6,959. Bags 787,407.

Rum.

Puns. 17,925. Hhds. 3,704. Brls. 2,435.

Molasses, casks	... 9,051	Shingles	... 2,346,500
Timber, ft.	... 301,265	Balata, lb	... 238,080
Charcoal, bags	... 50,828	Bread, „	... 37,112
Cocoanut	... 105,758	Isinglass, lb	... 3,434
Cocoa, lb	... 3,804	Gums, „	... 2,983
Coffee „	... 5,322	Starch, brls.	... 55
Corn, b'shls.	... 226	Plantains, b'chs.	... 889

Gold, 120,840 oz. 17 dwt. 23 grs. = value $2,147,222·15
In '91 94,216 oz. 13 dwt. 5 grs. = „ $1,676,073·59

Owing to the high cost of labour but little attempt was made in former years to grow food-grains, which as well as stock-fish were imported chiefly from America. Rice was also, and still is, imported largely from India, but now that the coolies have obtained the concession of the freehold of Crown lands at the normal price of a dollar an acre, the amount of grain and other vegetable food, as well as the number of cattle, goats, sheep, &c., has very largely increased; and if this movement be encouraged, there can be little doubt that, in the course of time, the free coolies will raise enough grain and cattle to supply the whole colony and do away with the necessity of expensive importation of food.

I give a few figures to show how greatly the colony will benefit by growing its own provisions. In 1888 rice was imported to the value of £209,515, corn £3,734, coffee £6,755, cocoa £1,757, cornmeal £2,002, dried fish £59,344. In 1889, rice £192,065, corn £3,603, coffee £6,075, cocoa £3,329, cornmeal £4,072, cattle £1,087, fish £62,847. The coolies are most successful farmers and stock keepers, and when their indenture is over, take up some suitable and independent employment in addition to working as labourers on the estates.

Exhibits at the Chicago Exhibition.

Some of their work is shown in the Chicago Exhibition: thus there is native grown rice sent by the Hon'ble A. R. Gilzean, who has written a paper on the growing of rice by East Indian immigrants, which appears in my note on emigration to Surinam. An account of Mr. Gilzean's colony of cooly rice growers is given in my diary of Surinam. There is also shown gold and silver jewellery made by Hindu handicraftsmen in British Guiana, and East Indian male and female apparel, and specimens of native executed needlework.

Creoles or Negros.

4. It may be asked why with a large population of emancipated negro slaves and their descendants, it is necessary to annually go to the enormous expense of importing labourers from India, which cost about £20 a head. The answer is to be found in the astonishing laziness, apathy and improvidence which have grown on the negros since they have been freed from the control which was so essential to their improvement, progress, and to the maintenance of industrious habits. Whatever sentiment may have to say on the subject, freedom to the negro has by no means proved an unmixed blessing. There is a minority of hard-working, well-informed, intellectual coloured gentlemen, who are capable of rising to any position; but the tendency of the majority since they have been able to do as they like is rather downwards. Much interesting evidence was recorded by the Labour Commission which sat at Georgetown, Demerara, in 1890. The main points noted were that no inducement could make them take up contracts, which they connect with slavery, for regular work even for short periods. There are a great number of "blacks" who do nothing at all, but many of them have lately gone to the gold fields. Of the 12,000 labourers who have gone to the gold fields, some are industrious people, but a good many are loafers who only work at certain seasons or in certain classes of work; other negro labourers on estates have been drawn away to the balata industry, and in some measure to small farming. Many negros are idlers in the villages, work now and then to earn a bare subsistence, but some do not work at all, but spend their time fishing in the fresh water canals, or stealing "provisions," raw produce, from the estates. When they can be induced to work they are the best cane-cutters in the colony, but they seldom work more than three or three and-a-half days in the week, nor will higher wages make them work harder or longer, though free drink will. It is curious to note how living in different colonies has had its effect in altering the habits and demeanour of these people, all imported from a common stock. The Barbadian Negro is intelligent, often hard-working, economical and respectable, and though possessing strong home instincts, goes far afield in slack times to get work, and may be found in positions of trust in all colonies, there being hardly room for him in his own little island, every inch of which is cultivated to the utmost extent. Although childishly vain, and with an imperfect control of temper, he has many estimable qualities, and is perhaps the best of his class. Antigua, though her strategical importance has now waned, was for many years a great naval and military station, and the negros unconsciously assumed the alertness, promptitude and habits of discipline they observed in their masters. An Antiguan negro could

be recognized almost anywhere by his respectful yet unembarrassed manner, and the military attitudes he assumes in your presence. Both the negros and negresses of Antigua are perhaps to a large extent as hard-working now as in the days of slavery, and they have little of that false pride which sees in agricultural labour something shameful and degrading and only to be resorted to from dire necessity, and then only with the vicious energy of a hateful task to be finished and put out of sight with all possible haste and violence.

In Trinidad the large porportion of coolies are beginning to press the negro population from the neighbourhood of their settlements and communities. Many coolies have bought the small properties on which negros have lived in happy indolence for generations, for the temptation of ready money is great. The Indian immigrants are also ousting them from their hereditary occupations, such as the control of machinery, which is the best paid labour on estates, the care of cattle and draught animals, for the negro is brutal to all helpless animals, even to his own children, for whom it has been found necessary to organize protection societies. Even the negress mothers appear to have little affection for their children, and it is dangerous to admire the sturdy urchins too much, lest you might receive an offer to purchase them. In Jamaica the negro works hard after a desultory manner, and is intensely superstitious and bigoted.

Very different is the attitude of the negro in the French colonies, where republican and revolutionary ideas have always existed. There the negro may at any time become a political danger. Respect for authority is weak, and cannot be enforced far beyond the line of sentries. The negro hardly takes the trouble to conceal his contempt for the "*petits blancs*," and points triumphantly to Haiti as to what may happen some day. Should the negros ever get the upper hand, the position of Indian immigrants on these islands will be quite insupportable. From what I have seen of the few instances in which negros have had immigrants allotted to them, I imagine him to be the worst possible master, who is from racial causes quite unfit to assume the responsibilities of an employer to a dependent and alien race. The more respectable negresses, especially those who have long been associated with European families, assume an impressive if not ludicrous dignity of deportment, and the black ladies of Martinique never forget that the Empress Josephine was, like themselves, born on their beautiful island, and when employed in even the most menial occupations, one arm is always employed in holding up their sweeping trains with all the dignity of Empresses.

I am tempted to give some extracts from a recent report by Consul Carrol of Demerara, to the United States Government.

Mr. Carrol lays no claim to originality, but has given a careful reflex of general opinion written without prejudice, and a fair and correctly instructive account, neither flattering nor maligning, of the largest section of the inhabitants of the colony which is intimately associated, both in work and as neighbours, with the Indian immigrant population.

THE COLOURED RACE IN BRITISH GUIANA.

Extracts from the Report of Consul Carrol of Demerara, to the United States Government.

The race designated and known in the United States as coloured, is here known and designated as follows, viz., Black, Cob, Mulatto, Mustee, Costee, and Fustee. But for the purposes of this report it is deemed proper to follow the designation familiar to Americans; hence in the word "coloured" the six designations above are embraced.

To understand the present condition of the British Guiana coloured man it is necessary to revert to 1838, when slavery was finally abolished throughout the British dominions. The number of slaves on the plantations before that time amounted to between 60,000 and 70,000, engaged in raising crops of cotton, coffee, and sugar, which realized nearly £2,000,000 annually. The slave, I am told by the most liberal and disinterested persons, was, on the whole, very comfortable. He was provided with a hut, a piece of ground for growing provisions, regular allowances of salt meat or fish, and as much clothing as he really required. On Saturday he worked in his provision ground and on Sunday brought his produce to market; and the supply of plantains, yams, fruits, feathered stock, and even pigs, was generally obtained from the slaves. Many saved money, and some even went so far as to buy slaves of their own, whom they are said to have rather harshly treated. It has been frequently affirmed that, with the legal protection which he enjoyed and the fostering care of his master, whose

self-interest alone would make him look after his "property," the coloured man was in a better condition than he is now.

Emancipation was, it is said, to the coloured man a doubtful blessing. He knew nothing of the duties of a citizen. To be a freeman was to be, like his master, the occupier of a large house, with, as he supposed, nothing to do but to eat and drink and enjoy himself. So soon as he became free he began to take things easy, working when and as long as he pleased, and caring little or nothing for the responsibilities of a free man. If he had a wife and children, "massa" would, he supposed, look after them as he had done before; as for himself, he would take life easy. He continued, it is said, to go to his former master for his allowances of salt fish and other things, and when they were refused unless he worked regularly, he became abusive, going so far as to say that the "Queen" would see him righted. Then the planter tried to take away his house and provision ground, with a view to compel him to work; but when this was done there were general strikes. Unfortunately, perhaps, for both parties, the planter could not be independent. A plantation in British Guiana cannot be neglected, even for a few weeks. The dams in front and back must be kept up, as well as the drainage, otherwise the whole estate would be ruined. It followed, therefore, that the planters began to bid against each other for the services of their late slaves, and offered wages beyond what the estate could afford, as well as the old allowances. But even this did not induce the coloured man to work regularly, while the feeling in England against anything like bondage prevented any law being enacted which would coerce him in any way, even so far as an annual engagement.

The plantations were at this time stocked with fruit trees, while plantains and bananas were very plentiful. The slaves naturally looked upon these trees as common property, and, as there was always more than enough, the planter allowed them to pick as much as they pleased. When they became free they continued, as before, to take the fruit, as also other things, as a right, neither caring nor supposing that it was necessary to give an equivalent. In a tropical climate like this a man may live almost on fruit, so that there was nothing left for the planters but to destroy the trees or allow them to perish by neglect. Thus the grassy dams of the plantations, which are said to have been beautiful avenues of fruit trees, gradually became the bare mud embankments which are seen to-day, and which make a sugar estate so monotonous and unpicturesque.

The decade between 1840 and 1850 witnessed the downfall of the old proprietary body. Plantations were abandoned on every hand, while almost all that remained in cultivation fell into the hands of English capitalists, who, holding mortgages, kept them in working order in hopes of better times. The few industrious coloured men, who had gleaned a rich harvest in the competition for their services, now bought a fair number of the plantations, which they divided among themselves, and which now form the villages. This, of course, tended more and more to reduce the amount of labour at command, so that estates became almost valueless. As for the coloured people, so long as they had money and retained a remnant of their industrious habits, they worked their plantations in common; but very soon, falling out among themselves, the dams and drainage became defective, and the villages became little better than swamps. The Government, however, has taken them in hand during the last twenty years, and they are now somewhat better; but it is still nothing out of the common to hear, after a few days' heavy rain, that the East Coast villages are under water. Most of them are in a wretched state, the little huts standing on piles (as all houses do here) on a bare piece of land, which is dry and choked with leaves at one season, and soft, sticky clay or dirty water at another, in many cases without a bush or tree to enliven its barrenness. The sanitary condition of these villages is said to be very bad, and if it were not for the heavy rains, which give them such thorough scourings, they would be almost uninhabitable. Pigs and fowls also assist in removing the filth, and as there are hardly any enclosures, these range everywhere and often clear up the filth almost as soon as it appears. Carrion crows do a great deal, also, in removing drowned animals which otherwise would pollute the air.

In speaking generally it should not be omitted that here and there a few of the more industrious have good houses and try to improve their surroundings. These, however, are handicapped by the carelessness of their neighbours, who allow pigs and goats to range everywhere, not caring whether they may destroy the young crops of their neighbours. This proves so aggravating that the industrious villager often gives up in despair and abandons his attempts at improvement. How these idle, indolent people live is a mystery. Now and then they work for a day or two on an estate, but, being so independent, they often spend a day or two in searching for that which pays a trifle higher wages, not considering the time lost in the search for work. Children suffer greatly from hunger, rarely getting more than one meal a day, when the father or mother return in the evening from work, and when they are idle, perhaps begging from a neighbour. It is not an uncommon thing to see a woman with a crying child follow a man to a rum shop, trying to obtain a few cents before he spends it all. Her language is something so entirely beyond anything usually expected from a woman, that a newcomer is shocked to the last degree. Quarrels and fights are common, bottle-throwing, cutting with knives and razors, and biting, being the usual modes of attack. The women are said to have less self-respect than the men, and on the two or three occasions when riots have taken place in Georgetown, they have been among the ringleaders. Education is almost free, the Government spending about $35,000 per annum in assisting the various denominational schools. Most of the schoolmasters are coloured, and they appear to be very suitable for primary teaching, having good memories, and when once launched into a groove are said to be strict disciplinarians. As a heritage of slavery, agricultural labour is

considered low and degrading by the coloured man. It has therefore followed that Georgetown is flooded with a mediocre class of these people, all trying to get situations as store or other clerks. The wages they receive are often less than they could earn as labourers; but they do not mind this, as they consider themselves so much more respectable. This, however, is common among white people in many places. Many tell me they are not fit for any position of responsibility; but this ocular evidence refutes, as there are many coloured men here who have attained the highest position in the various avocations of life, and who discharge their trusts with as much credit as any white man could. Social equality obtains here. There appears to be little or no prejudice on account of colour. Intelligence, education and character seem to govern this. Mechanics among the coloured people are said to be inferior and lacking pride in their work. Good workmen have a large field; but this class is said to care little whether the work is creditable or not, so long as they get paid for it. Many of the coloured men besides those in the villages are possessed of landed property, but this is of very little value; in fact, land is almost worthless, even a sugar plantation selling for the value of the crop on the ground, hardly any of them realizing the cost of the buildings and machinery. Government land can be bought for $1 an acre, but many landowners would be glad to get as much as that. House property in Georgetown is mostly in the hands of the Portuguese, very few black men being possessed of buildings.

* * * * * *

As an inheritance from the period before emancipation, the coloured man of British Guiana is wanting in independence and self-reliance. In the same way that he formerly looked to his master for everything, he now depends on the Government. When his village is inundated he does nothing himself, and notwithstanding that there may be enough able-bodied men to repair the dam or open the drainage, nothing is done. In many of the villages the Government has taken these matters in hand, imposing taxes to keep them up; but a very large number of the people cannot or will not pay, and if their land is sold it brings little or nothing, so that they become a burden to the revenue. Up to the last few years the losses on the administration of the villages were considerable, but now the arrears of taxes only amount to about 20 per cent.

* * * * * *

It is proper to say that much hereof has been gleaned from conversations with gentlemen of the colony of various shades of opinion. In many cases I have endeavoured to use their exact words touching matters of the colony. Especially is this true of the portion thereof referring to the "coloured man." Indeed, I have endeavoured to use the opinions of others rather than my own, unless where they appeared too prejudiced. While nearly a year's residence in the colony enables me to speak somewhat intelligently upon the subject, I deemed it more valuable to embody the views of colonists of many years' standing, thoroughly conversant with the subject, and, like myself, thoroughly unprejudiced. From personal observation I can truly say that the great majority of the coloured race in this colony is different from the coloured race in the United States, and not at all comparable to the latter. I have met coloured men, however, whose superiors in intelligence and ability it would be difficult to find, and whose manners a Chesterfield could not excel; but this class, unfortunately, does not predominate. Most of the lawyers and doctors here are coloured men, and certainly they will compare favourably with many, and excel some, of their brethren of the white race in the same vocations here or elsewhere.

The present Mayor of Georgetown is a coloured man, as was also his immediate predecessor, both lawyers and very able men. Besides the lawyers and doctors, there are two or three remarkably able newspapers conducted by coloured men in this city, papers which, in the judgment of many, are as ably conducted as the leading paper of the city of Georgetown.

5. *Creole Indians, East Indian population born in the colony.*—No one who knows the Indian cooly well can fail to be struck by the great difference between the cooly in India and his children born in the colony. Whatever be the cause, whether change of climate, better food, easy times, more responsible duties or position, the influence of travel, or freedom from the narrowness of caste prejudice, the result is very apparent. The children born in the colony of Indian parents revert to a higher type of civilization, and in appearance, manners and intelligence are so much superior to their parents that it is difficult to believe they belong to the same family. The boys and young men are stronger and better looking, and are able to turn their hand to anything at a moment's notice, with a smartness and knowledge of the world which would vastly astonish their grandparents in India; while the girls and young women have a beauty and refinement rarely seen in public in India, many having all the appearance of good birth and breeding usually associated only with families of the best blood. The daughters of men who do not require them to work; they lead a happy life, free from the care and toil which aged their mothers before they had reached their prime. I give here a cutting from a newspaper, a local effusion, which if the poetry is not quite of the highest order, yet a

pod description is afforded of the way in which these children of East I
parents born in the colony are regarded:—

Oh cooly girl with eyes of wonder!
With thoughtful brow and lips compressed!
I know not where your thoughts do wander;
I know not where your heart doth rest.

Is it far away by rolling Indus?
Or down by Ganges' sacred wave?
Or where the lonesome Indian Ocean
The shores of Malabar doth lave?

Ah no! Those lands you never saw!
This western world can claim your birth;
Your parents thence their life may draw,
Their thoughts of joy—their themes of mirth.

This land of mud has been your home,
'Twas here you drew your natal breath,
Your home of childhood—doomed to be
The land shall hold your dust at death.

Then why so foreign? Why so strange
In looks and manner, style and dress—
Religion, too, and social ways?
Thy mystery I cannot guess.

You dwell so very near a church,
A Christian church, with tolling bell;
You never enter it, alas!
For marriage peal or funeral knell.

A cooly temple far away,
Pagoda-shaped, with colours loud;
'Tis there you wend your stately steps,
Arrayed in winsome gauzy shroud.

Your parents have been thrifty folks,
And now you scorn a life of toil;
No "Creole gang," no whip, no thong,
Thy youthful beauty e'er does spoil.

Thy father is a landlord now
With herds of cattle, flocks of sheep;
A veritable lady thou,
Thy father's flocks and herds doth keep.

This land is yours, go up, possess!
'Tis here for you to cultivate.
Many have come, many have gone;
They all have left it desolate.

The Carib, Negro, Portuguese,
The Chinaman (not he of delf),
They all have tried their hands, and now
They leave it mostly to yourself.

"Out of the running" all of them,
Mere loiterers on the world's highway;
They all are "going, going, gone,"
The cooly man has come to stay.

The future of this land is yours;
Her wealth is not in precious stones.
The digging fork, the spade, the hoe,
Still draw the marrow from her bones.

You open up the country when
You dig a space around your door,
And cause two blades of grass to grow
Where only one was seen before.

Ah! cooly girl with eyes of wonder!
With thoughtful brow and lips compressed!
I know not where your thoughts may wander,
But here at length your heart shall rest.

The strange habits and dress of the Indian coolies are a never failing source of wonder. The force of public opinion and flattery of imitation has in course of time considerably changed the appearance of the cooly as regards his dress, which in the colonies usually consists of a soft felt hat, a black coat cut in the European fashion, and a dungaree shirt and trousers and English boots, or, perhaps, no foot covering. On gala days he dresses up in a glorified replica of his native costume, only made of the finest material. There are not wanting people in these colonies with prudish ideas who profess to see in the native dress something to shock ideas of decency, and with a high sense of duty they attempt to reform a dress which they forget is infinitely older than the country they are living in. The following letter recently appeared in a British Guiana paper:—

TROUSERS WANTED.

SIR,—We have been, and still are enduring, the ugly, the immoral, and the uncivilized sight amongst the coolies. The general dress of the Eastern labourer is a swaddling cloth tied round his waist, called a baba.

The Government should compel, by ordinance, all coolies, who are still adopting the baba system of dressing, to wear nothing less than a short trouser, from the waist to the knee,—a kind of knee breeches.

It is time that these planter's babies, now called unruly heathens, should be legally compelled, without infringement, to adopt the civilized mode of dressing (this is compulsory in the islands where coolies are), and not continue with us any longer, to shock, by their crude and indecent Indian habits, the feelings of every virtuous family residing throughout the country districts.

Besides, it is the duty of the Government to show to the world that the heathen immigrants are not brought here merely as the festering wens of a morbid civilization; but that they are advancing as Christians in thought, habits, and actions. Yours, &c.,

FLETA.

25th March 1892.

The "baba" here referred to is the dhotee in common use in India.

6. *Immigration Ordinance of* 1891.—The following article which appeared in a British Guiana paper at the time will sufficiently explain the reasons for and the scope of the Immigration Ordinance of 1891, which is the most recent embodiment of the law affecting East Indian immigrants:—

Periodically it becomes imperative to amend and consolidate the laws relating to Asiatic immigrants—a class of people who constitute considerably more than one-third of the population of the colony. Such a period has again been reached, and on Friday last the Court of Policy consented to the second reading of a Bill drafted for the purpose by the Hon. Dr. J. W. Carrington, C.M.G., Attorney-General. It will supersede the existing ordinance of similar character, No. 7 of 1873, which was passed in deference to the opinion of Governor Scott, who thought a comprehensive ordinance was preferable to a short one introducing a few important changes, and leaving the law on immigration otherwise unaltered. In the present case, however, "the changes made in the Bill are," to quote the Attorney-General, "very slight;" and in this respect the measure may be compared to the "consolidated ordinance" of 1864, which did not introduce any very striking innovations, but remodelled the existing regulations, defined more accurately the duties of each official, and outlined the routine to be observed in all proceedings with the most studied attention to detail. But the new ordinance is more complete than any corresponding enactments which have preceded it. Ordinance No. 4 of 1864, with the exception of the Heathen Marriage Ordinance, was intended to embody the whole law on the subject of immigration, though it imperfectly did so; while No. 7 of 1873, which repealed a large number of ordinances, some of which had become practically obsolete, was likewise constituted the sole authority on the subject of immigration, with the exception of the regulations for celebrating heathen marriages and conducting the festival of the Tadjah, No. 16 of 1869. The new Bill, however, contains provisions for the marriage and divorce of Asiatic immigrants (Part X), and is, the Attorney-General observed, intended to bring "the ten or eleven ordinances, which at present cut into one another in a horrible manner, within the four corners" of the enactment, to the advantage, it is to be hoped, of all concerned with the existing system of immigration. We take it that there can be no doubt that "simplicity of form and convenience of arrangement" will have the desired effect of facilitating the better working of the system upon which so much of the welfare of the colony depends.

The new Bill to consolidate and amend the laws relating to Asiatic immigrants is, as may be imagined, a very lengthy one. It makes altogether 59 officially printed folios, and contains as many as 240 clauses. The sixteen parts into which the Bill is divided are devoted to the Immigration Department, fiscal provisions, arrival and allotment, indenture, dwellings, rations, hospitals, the labour law, leave and desertion, marriage, divorce, &c.,

transfer and determination of indentures, certificates of exemption from labour, passports and return passages, registers, returns and certificates, procedure, and miscellaneous provisions—a category comprehensive enough in all conscience. The changes proposed to be introduced in the new enactment are, as we before observed, regarded by the Hon. the Attorney-General as very slight. The first is the creation of the office of Senior Immigration Agent. Practically, as was pointed out, Mr. King is acting at the present time as Senior Immigration Agent, although the official description of his office is that of "Senior Sub-Immigration Agent," and as a matter of fact Mr. King invariably acts for his chief when absent on leave or emergency. In the new Bill, however, his position in this respect is more clearly defined. It is provided that the Senior Immigration Agent, who is to receive such salary and allowances as may be assigned by the Combined Court, shall act as assistant generally to the Immigration Agent-General in the performance of his duties; that, in the absence of the chief, anything which may by law be done or suffered by the Immigration Agent-General may be done and suffered by the Senior Immigration Agent; and that he shall be stationed at the Immigration Office in Georgetown.

The other contemplated changes are of a character more directly affecting the general working of the immigration system. At the present writing we refer only to those mentioned by the Hon. the Attorney-General in the Court of Policy on Friday. The first appears in Part III, relating to the arrival and allotment of immigrants. Hitherto allotment could only be made to the head of a department in the public service and to the several employers of labour who may have made previous application. But, in future, it is proposed that East Indians may be available for domestic or other service under the terms of the following section to the Bill:—

The Immigration Agent-General may allot immigrants under the Ordinance for domestic or other service, when all the approved applications for immigrants have been complied with, or when any particular immigrants are, in his opinion, by their physical condition or previous occupation more fitted for employment in domestic or other service than for agricultural labour.

In section 94 the old provision that the daily rate of wages shall be not less than 24 cents for an able-bodied male adult immigrant, and not less than 16 cents for any other immigrant, is retained; but with the following proviso:—

Provided that if any indentured immigrant is, in the opinion of the Government Medical Officer, physically incapable of earning the minimum amount of the ordinary rates of wages, the Government Medical Officer may direct that his name be placed on a list to be called the "Invalid List," and any immigrant whose name is entered on this list shall receive daily rations and be given work suitable to his condition, and be paid such wages proportionate to the work, as may be approved by the Immigration Agent-General, or the Immigration Agent-General may, if he thinks fit, with the consent of the employer, cancel the indenture of any such immigrant, and provide him, if he so desires, with a return passage to the port or place whence he came.

From Part IV, relating to the transfer and determination of indentures, the elaborate provisions as regards the checking of work for the livret supplied to each indentured immigrant, are entirely omitted. It was stated by the Attorney-General that the system had been found unworkable in practice, and had, in consequence, been abandoned. It is interesting to note that the livret was a new provision under ordinance No. 7 of 1873, though it had at that time—eighteen years ago—been in use for some time in Surinam and other places. Another omission is that requiring managers to make a report of immigrants absent without lawful excuse under the law, which is asserted to have been found troublesome and unworkable. It was further explained to the Court of Policy on Friday that some idea had been entertained at one time of placing women under indenture in a different position to that of men, but that on the whole it had been thought advisable to leave the law in that respect as it at present stands. Substantially we believe it to be the case that women are not dealt with under the labour law in exactly the same way as the men; and therefore it will remain for the new ordinance to be worked in the same loose way as the old, in regard to women. We have now enumerated and explained all the "slight changes" to which the Hon. Attorney-General made very cursory and hurried allusion in the Court of Policy on Friday. It is quite possible that when planters and others peruse the draft ordinance—as all should do without delay—some other amendments will be suggested; haply some as drastic as those suggested by the Immigration Commissioners—that power should be given to flog men convicted of adultery, and to shave the heads of the women under certain circumstances.

The Immigration Commissioners referred to in the last paragraph are those appointed by the Home Government in 1871.

I recently addressed the Government of India as to the necessity, or at all events the great desirability, of this or some such well conceived and representative ordinance being brought into use with as little delay as possible, and here repeat the arguments I then used, which I trust will prove effectual. There is no measure now under consideration which can so greatly affect the well being of the Indian immigrant population in all Colonies, whether British or Foreign. The Colonial Office in London, with which I discussed this question, was not very strongly impressed with the necessity for any action in the matter,

but I am convinced that it would be a matter for much regret if the British Guiana Immigration Ordinance of 1891 were allowed to drop out of notice from insufficient appreciation of the general good it would do, or because of any minor defects which it may contain, and which can easily be eliminated at the Colonial Office, and would leave the Immigration Ordinance of 1891 what it professes to be—a very fair representation of the treatment immigrants may expect on the estates of their employers, in the magisterial courts of the colony, and of their civil rights as independent settlers and agriculturists when their indentured labour has been completed. The necessity for a revision of the obsolete Immigration Ordinance supposed to be still in force is urgent, if for no other reason than to legalize the alterations, nearly all of them to the advantage of the immigrant, which have been adopted from time to time. I may say that this Ordinance has been prepared with much care and consideration, under the supervision of Sir Charles Bruce, K.C.M.G., Lieutenant-Governor of British Guiana, who has the interests of the immigrants and the good of the colony at heart, acting in concurrence with the members of the Court of Policy and Directors, many of whom are the largest employers of labour in the colony; and the ordinance is rightly regarded by both with triumph as showing what can be done in an enlightened age by the mutual discussion and liberal treatment of a subject on which their immediate interests have from time to time been considered divergent, if not often incompatible. Looking to the arbitrary treatment of labourers which once prevailed in British colonies, and similar instances to which can be found in my notes on foreign colonies, the Government of British Guiana is to be congratulated on having obtained from the planters an expression of opinion so much in accordance with the wishes of the Government of India, and the planters are proud to be able to show that they are working hand in hand with the Government in making the position of the immigrant so desirable that they may expect large additions to the numbers of East Indians who come to, and especially of those who remain permanently in, the colony. They are also naturally anxious to show that no trace remains of the abuses or the report of them which led to the appointment of the Immigration Commission of 1871-72. There is a strong opinion prevailing in the colonies of Trinidad and Demerara that the Government of India is unaware of the extent of the immense improvements in the position of the immigrants which have been made in recent years; and considering the absolutely vital importance of the continued, if not increased, importation of East Indian labour, the colonists wish that their relations to their labourers should be fully understood and appreciated by the Government of India. The Government of British Guiana, as well as the employers of labour, are earnestly desirous of showing that every arrangement has been made to render the position of the intending immigrant, both as an indentured labourer and thereafter as a peasant proprietor or independent tradesman, a secure and enviable one, and that his opportunities for social and moral advancement are on a par, if not superior, to that which the native of India of the class from which the cooly is drawn could obtain in any other colony, and certainly far better than he could hope to get in his own country. With these wishes prevailing, it would, I am sure, be a serious mistake to minimize the importance of or throw cold water on any well-considered scheme which has been proposed for the improvement of the status of the immigrant; and I am afraid that any discouragement of such well-meant attempts would lead to the supposition that the mother-country is not sufficiently well acquainted with, or is indifferent to, the best interests of her people. To foster such an idea would be most injurious to the future prospects of East Indians in all colonies. The proposed British Guiana Immigration Ordinance of 1891 is not perfect, and some alterations are necessary; but it is so far an advance on all previous ordinances, and is conceived in so much more liberal a spirit, that I have no hesitation in saying that it should after revision, in the best interests of the immigrants, be adopted not only in Demerara, but also in Trinidad, where the Immigration Ordinance is obsolete and unsuitable. For smaller colonies some further modifications would be necessary. There are many Indian subjects in foreign colonies, yet there is no set of laws concerning them for the guidance of even our own colonies, which can be pointed out as those which the Government of India would desire to see universally adopted.

At an interview I had with His Excellency the Governor of Guadeloupe, I spoke strongly as to the great difference in the laws framed for the treatment of Indian immigrants in British and foreign colonies, and the Governor was so much impressed that, after a consideration of the terms of this ordinance, a copy of which I showed him, he promised to obtain the consent of the Government of France to its introduction. I was obliged to regretfully admit that it had not been authoritatively approved by the Home Government, and thereby a great opportunity was lost of bettering the condition of the Indian immigrants in Guadeloupe, and thereafter of those in the other French colonies, which could not well have refused to consent to arrangements approved of by one of its own colonies,—at all events opposition to them would have been deprived of much of its force. At an interview with Lord Knutsford, late Secretary of State for the Colonies, I laid before him to the best of my ability the arguments for an immediate revision of the proposed ordinance, the elimination of the objectionable clauses, and the additions desired; but I recommended that whatever alterations were necessary should be made without delay and the ordinance adopted, for that East Indian immigration was without any set of laws which had been brought up to date, having regard to the great alterations and improvements which had been made in recent years. I also discussed the ordinance with Mr. Wingfield, Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies, who did not think the ordinance much advance on the previous ones, whereas some new matter of an objectionable nature had been introduced; but this might easily be cut out.

The "*livret*," though included in the old ordinance of Demerara, was found unworkable and oppressive, and soon fell into abeyance; but it forms a part of the immigration system of foreign colonies, and is often misused. If the new ordinance had done nothing more than to do away with the "*livret*," which can be used as an engine of oppression, and always brands the colonial settler as a ticket-of-leave man without the full rights of the free population, it would have been sufficient reason for its adoption. The planters and planter legislation of the present day recognized that such holds over settlers in their country are unworthy of the liberal policy they have adopted now for many years, and they have declined to allow them to appear any longer in the ordinances by which they regulate their labour. Again, it has been the custom for many years past to employ some of the immigrants of suitable caste and training as domestic servants, much to the comfort and benefit of their masters and themselves. This has never been legally recognised, and is obviously inconsistent with the provision of former immigration ordinances as to the provision of a daily task, etc.

As compared with former ordinances, the first important alteration which is made is that referred to in Part III, section 49. The first drafts of the ordinance did not contain the concluding paragraph, by which an immigrant may for caste or other reasons refuse domestic service. I pointed out to Sir Charles Bruce and the Immigration Agent-General that in the agreement made with the immigrant in India nothing is said about any other than agricultural labour, and the clause regarding the optional employment of indentured immigrants should be mentioned in future agreements, and I recommended that after the words "agricultural labour" in section 49 of the new ordinance, the words should be added "if the immigrant is willing to perform such service, and it is not in his opinion contrary to the traditions of caste." It is evident that there are many coolies of the higher castes to whom domestic service, such as cooking, sweeping, or removing dirt, would be impossible if they obey the laws of their caste; nor would they agree to emigrate if they knew they were liable to such service. The Government of India has always been careful to avoid interfering with the caste prejudices of the people. No doubt after a longer or shorter residence on the colonies these prejudices become considerably modified or disappear altogether, but it would not be safe to legislate as if they did not exist. If an immigrant volunteer for any particular service, there can be no objection to its performance by him; but to compel him to do it is a different thing. There is nothing repugnant to domestic service in the provision of Emigration Act XXI of 1883. Section 6 of this Act defines emigration as departure out of India to labour for hire.

Section 97, providing that if an immigrant is physically incapable of earning the wages promised him under his agreement, he shall have the chance of returning to India, is strictly just. As a matter of fact, as nearly all work is done by task, the labourer is paid the value of whatever work is done, regardless of its being or not being a full task.

Section 175.—The period after allotment, during which an employer may declare an immigrant's inability for labour and return him to the Immigration Department, receiving back the allotment fees, has been extended from three months to six months. The former period would appear to be quite sufficient for the employer to determine whether a man is fit for work; but the matter is one in which the Colonial Government is sure to safeguard its own interests, so that it may not be burdened with the expense and introduction of labourers returned on its hands by the employers.

Return passage, Section 199.—I would draw attention to the liberal provision of a return passage at the expense of the colony for the immigrant, his wife, and every son and daughter—a great advance on the Immigration Ordinance of Trinidad, 13 of 1870. Section 48 provides return passage only for the immigrant introduced into the colony, to the exclusion of his children born there. The agreement made in India with Trinidad has the words "and his family." This is one of the many defects of the Trinidad Ordinance.

Section 228.—The power of exemption from appeal given to the decision of the Immigration Agent-General regarding the claim against deceased immigrants' estates would not, I imagine, hold good in common law.

---

7. On my arrival in the colony I addressed the following letter to the Immigration Agent-General, the Hon'ble A. H. Alexander, Member of the Court of Policy:—

GOVERNMENT HOUSE, DEMERARA,
17*th July* 1891.

SIR,

I should be glad if you would be so good as to obtain for me any information under the following heads:—

Number of East Indians who have arrived yearly since the commencement of immigration ... ...

Births among the Indians in the colony or on the voyage from India ...

Immigrants from other colonies, "casuals," or returning as passengers ...

Return immigrants from India, and money brought with them ...

A total of all these will, I think, represent the total population of East Indian immigrants in the colony, less casualties from the following causes:—

- Deaths ... ...
- Repatriated ... ...
- Emigrated to other colonies ... ...

Of some of these—as casuals—you perhaps have no return, but you may be able to make an approximate statement.

What proportion of immigrants are—

Madrasis ... ... } ... ...
Calcutta coolies ... ... }

How many East Indian immigrants now in the colony are indentured—or residing on estates—or employed in Government work—or in public establishments—re-engaged—free or settlers? ... ...

How many old, *i.e.*, unindentured and non-resident, immigrants are employed by sugar estates, and how many have withdrawn from sugar cultivation altogether and live by other means? ... ...

I should be much obliged by a short description of the different settlements of East Indians in the colony, giving date of origin, and how they have since prospered, or reasons for failure, abandonment, etc. ...

Also for a note on the different occupations followed by free coolies ...

The reasons why the system of bounty on re-indenture has been abandoned. Perhaps you could furnish me with some correspondence or Government orders on the subject ... ...

Number of licenses granted for sale of liquor and provisions, and as owners of dogs, guns, carts, horses and donkeys, and to retail opium, ganja or cocoanut toddy; and what restrictions as to sale of above are in force ... ...

Social condition as regards mixing with or marrying into other sections of the population ... ...
Land owned by East Indians ... ...
Sale of Crown land to East Indians: to what extent and in what part of the colony ... ...
Feeling of coolies regarding value or desirability of accepting Crown lands ... ...
Houses owned by East Indians. Number of house-owners among coolies
Cattle owned by East Indians. How many coolies own cattle, and where do they dispose of the milk and butter ... ...
Deposit of savings by East Indians ... ...
Money remitted by East Indians ... ... }
Correspondence of East Indians with relatives in India ... }
Taxes paid by East Indians on articles of food imported:—
Rice ... ... }
Flour ... ... |
Tobacco ... ... } }
Dál ... ... |
Oil, ghee and kerosine oil ... ... |
Rum ... ... }
Taxes on land and houses ... ...
Value to the colony generally as taxpayers ... ...
Labour laws ... ...
Feeling of planters and coolies regarding resort to law. If obtainable, I should like to have a comparative table for a few years showing cases before Magistrates between employers and labourers (coolies) and *vice versâ*, distinguishing those for breach of indenture, absence from work, etc., from those for assault, larceny, illtreating cattle or damaging property, threatening or violent language, or disturbing the peace ... ... } } }
Vagrancy—how far prevalent and how controlled ... ...
Desertions and absence from work, and habitual idleness—how far prevalent and how controlled ... ...

Crime among Coolies.

Murders and wife "chopping" and suicides—Comparative table for five years ... ...
Gang robberies ... ...
Strikes and disturbances or riots during last few years and traced to what cause ... ...
Drink as a source of crime ... ...
Opium and ganja as a source of crime and lunacy ... ...
Increase or decrease of rum drinking among coolies. Do women drink? Is rum given on estates during crop time or heavy work? ...
Are any petition-writers, village lawyers, fomenters of litigation, false witnesses, hangers-on about the Courts? ... ...

Penal servitude.

Is gaol labour a deterrent punishment? Are many men constantly in gaol? Are cooly women often sent to gaol, or the reverse? ... ...

Police supervision.

To what extent is the "free pass" necessary to allow the free cooly to travel at will about the colony? ... ...

Effective or inefficient.

How many have been found permanently inefficient or unfit for allotment on arrival in the colony? ... ... }
How many allotted at reduced fees on account of physical disability for full work? ... ... } }
How are the permanently inefficient disposed of? Are they returned to India? ... ... }

Commutation of period of indenture.

How far allowed, and how many have commuted, and what sums paid ...

Transfers to other estates.

Reasons for, and number ... ...

Return passage.

Reasons for and against ... ...

Bounty in lieu of return passage.

Number repatriated yearly, showing men, women, and children, including those born in the colony ... ...

Percentage to those imported and to the East Indian population of the colony. How many on expiration of 10 years, and after 15 years? ...

Including how many able to pay their own passage? How many paupers, criminals and bad characters, and habitual idlers? Inefficient, infirm, old, blind, lepers, maimed or otherwise permanently incapacitated? ... ...

How many return to the colony after visiting India? ... ...

How many not entitled to return passage go to India at their own expense? ... ...

What money and jewellery do they take with them or deposit for payment on arrival in India? ... ...

What sum is paid for clothing by return passengers? ... ...

Would it be practicable to collect a portion of the expenses of the return passage from coolies hereafter to be introduced? If 1-5th or 1-6th of the expenses of return passage had to be deposited at the time of application, would it deter those from going to India who only go because they are entitled to claim a return passage, and not because of any keen desire to return to their native country? ... ...

Education of children.

What proportion of Indian children attend school, and between what ages? Do they attend Creole schools, or have they schools of their own? Are not many of the Indian children sent there, not so much for education as to get them out of the way while their mothers are employed, after the manner of a "Crêche" for infants and young children? Are there many Indian children who are highly educated, and become clerks, shop assistants, pupil teachers, catechists, &c.?

How are orphans provided for, and to what occupations are they brought up? ... ...

Missionaries.

How far are they successful in obtaining converts? What Missions work especially among coolies? ... ...

Deceased immigrants' estates.

Number outstanding and causes of delay in realizing ... ...
Mode of settling when heirs are in the colony ... ...
Mode of settling intestate estates. Who takes charge of the property? How is it realized—by public auction or otherwise? ... ...
What sums are usually allowed for funeral and auction expenses? ...
By whom are wills drawn up, and at what cost? ... ...
What are the rates of probate and succession duty levied in the colony? ...

Marriage and Divorce.

To what extent in practice? If marriage is permanent or dissolved by mutual consent? Reputed marriages, how far recognized by law? Is the property of couples coming to the colony as man and wife treated as "in community"? How far is registration necessary to the legalisation of marriage, and are the children of unregistered parents considered as illegitimate, and do they succeed to property? Are marriages between persons of different caste considered as legal? What is the legal age for marriage in the colony? What steps are legally necessary to constitute a divorce? ... ...

Medical and Sanitary.

Where are newly arrived coolies sent if quarantine is necessary from epidemic diseases on board ship? ... ...
What laws are in force regarding vaccination? ... ...
How does the joint hospital system work? ... ...
What steps are being taken for the segregation of lepers? ... ...

Medical treatment of free coolies.

Are they entitled to admission into estate hospitals, or is it a favour conferred by the manager? I should like to see copies of any orders or correspondence on this subject ... ...

Caste.

Extent to which it is modified by emigration ... ...
What are the objections to the importation of the agricultural members of the Chettri, Thakur, or Rajput class? ... ...
How do "praying" Brahmins support themselves, also Fakirs and Sadus? Are these present in objectionable numbers? Do Muhammadans give any trouble? ... ...

RELIGIOUS CEREMONIES.

Which of them are kept up? ... ...

HOLIDAYS AND FESTIVALS.

What holidays are given and what festivals observed? ... ...
Amusements of coolies ... ...

Much of the information now asked can, I imagine, be obtained from Annual Reports and Returns. These are of course useful; but if you can give me a note on each subject, it will be very valuable and I shall be much obliged.

I have the honour to be,

SIR,

Your most obedient servant,

D. W. D. COMINS.

The HON'BLE A. H. ALEXANDER,

Immigration Agent-General,

British Guiana.

I received in reply a carefully prepared compilation of statistics on immigration, accompanied by most interesting notes on the subjects referred to in my letter, and a complete census, made for the first time, of the East Indian population of the colony. I am very grateful to the Hon'ble A. H. Alexander for the great care he has taken to make the information supplied as complete as possible. I leave unaltered, except in one or two instances, the order in which Mr. Alexander has arranged the subjects dealt with.

8. I take this opportunity of bringing to the notice of the Government of India the great kindness, hospitality, and assistance I have received during my stay in this colony. Every facility was afforded me for acquiring the information I desired, and all the resources of the colony were placed at my disposal for rapidity and convenience of travelling. To His Excellency Sir Charles Bruce, K.C.M.G., I am deeply indebted, not only for his cordial welcome and constant kindness, but for the arrangements made to enable me to attain as fully as possible the object of my mission, and especially I have to thank him for the appointment of Mr. St. Felix Daly as my Private Secretary, who greatly assisted me in collecting notes and statistics from various offices. The Hon'ble A. H. Alexander, Immigration Agent-General, gave himself vast trouble in explaining the whole system of immigration, of which in this colony, as well as in Jamaica and others, he has very large experience, in collecting the statistics and writing the notes on various subjects which appear here, and in personally accompanying me to remote parts of the colony, so that he might show me, on the spot, the real life of the Indian cooly. Of these trips I have very pleasurable recollections. From all officials I received the most ready help, and I must point with admiration to the complete census returns of the East Indian population, which have never before been put into a collected shape. From the proprietors and managers of estates I received the most hearty welcome and full opportunities of seeing all the arrangements for the maintenance of East Indian immigrants, and the many means by which they are raised from the position of raw, ignorant, and bigoted coolies, to that of comfortable and independent settlers. The immigration system of this colony has, through many vicissitudes and at times much opposition, and constant improvement and reform, been brought to such a perfection that it now stands as an example to all the world of British fairness, honesty, and organization in the beneficial control of a humble and dependent race. Such small inconsistencies with existing regulations as I, after much minute and patient investigation and experience of immigration in other colonies, was able to notice, are rare and insignificant, and well within the powers of departmental supervision to rectify

9. NUMBER OF IMMIGRANTS INTRODUCED INTO THE COLONY.

The following statement shows the number of East Indians who have arrived yearly since the commencement of immigration, viz., from 1838 to the close of season 1890-91:—

Year.	Souls.	Year.	Souls.	Year.	Souls.
1838	406	1862	5,625	1877-78	8,118
1845	816	1863	2,354	1878-79	6,426
1846	4,019	1864	2,709	1879-80	4,506
1847	3,461	1865	3,216	1880-81	4,355
1848	3,545	1866	2,526	1881-82	3,166
1851	517	1867	3,909	1882-83	3,016
1852	2,805	1868	2,528	1883-84	2,731
1853	2,021	1869	7,168	1884-85	6,209
1854	1,562	1870	4,943	1885-86	4,796
1855	2,342	1871	2,706	1886-87	3,928
1856	1,258	1872	3,556	1887-88	2,771
1857	2,596	To 30th June 1873	3,656	1888-89	3,573
1858	1,404	1873-74	8,301	1889-90	3,432
1859	3,426	1874-75	3,887	1890-91	5,229
1860	5,450	1875-76	8,384		
1861	3,737	1876-77	3,982		

The immigrants who arrived in 1838 were introduced by private enterprise.

During the ten years 1864 to 1873, both inclusive, the annual average number of immigrants introduced into the colony was 3,692. During the succeeding ten seasons, 1873–74 to 1882–83, the annual average rose to 5,414. This arose from the check given to re-indenture in 1873, and it will be seen that the requisition for immigrants immediately after that change exceeded 8,000.

The annual average from season 1882–83 to season 1890–91 was 4,084.

10. BIRTHS AT SEA.

The following table shows the number of births at sea during the twenty years 1871 to 1890, both inclusive:—

Year.	Embarked.	Births.	Died at sea.	Landed.	Percentage of births to immigrants embarked.
1871 ...	2,735	15	3	12	·55
1872 ...	3,692	38	9	29	·78
1873 ...	7,904	53	12	41	·67
1874 ...	6,180	52	19	33	·84
1875 ...	4,365	28	2	26	·64
1876 ...	2,932	31	2	29	1·06
1877 ...	3,905	41	12	29	1·05
1878 ...	9,329	82	20	62	·88
1879 ...	6,124	24	5	19	·39
1880 ...	4,403	37	7	30	·84
1881 ...	4,022	44	12	32	·80
1882 ...	3,186	26	7	19	·82
1883 ...	2,494	20	4	16	·80
1884 ...	4,753	50	10	40	1·05
1885 ...	6,676	58	16	48	·87
1886 ...	3,601	27	7	20	·75
1887 ...	4,420	42	17	25	·95
1888 ...	2,936	26	6	20	·89
1889 ...	3,574	27	6	21	·75
1890 ...	4,641	43	6	37	·93

11. MORTALITY AT SEA.

The following table shows the mortality at sea, including deaths among infants born on the voyage, during the twenty years 1871 to 1890, both inclusive:—

Year.	Embarked.	Deaths.	Percentage of death on immigrants embarked and births during voyage.
1871 ...	2,735	44	1·60
1872 ...	3,692	177	4·74
1873 ...	7,904	443	5·56
1874 ...	6,180	223	3·58
1875 ...	4,365	49	1·12
1876 ...	2,932	32	1·08
1877 ...	3,905	60	1·52
1878 ...	9,329	311	3·30
1879 ...	6,124	95	1·55
1880 ...	4,403	63	1·34
1881 ...	4,022	109	2·68
1882 ...	3,186	47	1·46
1883 ...	2,494	17	·64
1884 ...	4,753	98	2·04
1885 ...	6,676	168	2·50
1886 ...	3,601	51	1·41
1887 ...	4,420	71	1·59
1888 ...	2,936	54	1·82
1889 ...	3,574	54	1·50
1890 ...	4,641	66	1·41

12. TOTAL EAST INDIAN POPULATION IN THE COLONY.

The following table gives the total East Indian population in the colony, as estimated by the Immigration Department, at the end of each year, from 1869 to 1890, both inclusive:—

Year.	Introduced at the expense of the colony.	Casuals.	Births.	Total.	Returned to India.	Passports.	Deaths.	Total.	Remaining at the end of the year.
To 31st Dec. 1869	69,427	253	5,969	75,919	6,515	...	24,468	30,983	44,936
1870	4,943	211	1,348	6,502	407	4	1,975	2,386	49,052
1871	2,706	31	1,137	3,874	423	1	1,841	2,265	50,661
1872	3,556	58	1,074	4,688	987	3	1,666	2,656	52,693
1873	7,512	177	1,224	8,913	905	8	1,681	259	59,012
1874	6,009	90	1,674	7,773	468	20	2,070	2,558	64,227
1875	4,346	39	1,448	5,833	837	47	2,171	3,055	67,005
1876	2,932	44	1,325	4,301	461	61	2,095	2,617	68,689
1877	3,886	64	1,365	5,315	1,050	79	2,376	3,505	70,499
1878	9,101	77	1,535	10,713	1,054	47	1,897	2,998	78,214
1879	6,050	177	2,281	8,453	1,122	104	1,878	3,104	83,563
1880	4,377	87	2,162	6,626	1,582	139	2,261	3,982	86,207
1881	3,955	54	1,914	5,923	1,416	138	2,588	4,142	87,988
1882	3,165	66	2,374	5,605	1,109	67	2,628	3,804	89,789
1883	2,497	68	1,720	4,285	1,495	66	2,390	3,951	90,123
1884	4,705	56	1,838	6,599	1,554	69	2,421	4,044	92,678
1885	4,565	123	2,369	9,057	1,761	75	2,253	4,089	97,646
1886	3,511	111	3,246	6,868	1,889	54	2,290	4,233	100,281
1887	4,356	77	2,641	7,074	1,420	173	3,016	4,609	102,746
1888	2,892	156	2,714	5,762	1,938	51	2,670	4,659	103,849
1889	3,510	106	3,408	7,024	2,042	133	2,462	4,637	106,236
1890	4,575	93	2,774	7,442	2,125	78	4,051	6,254	107,424

13. PROPORTION OF MADRAS TO CALCUTTA IMMIGRANTS.

With regard to the exact proportion of Madras and Calcutta coolies, this cannot be arrived at with accuracy; but it is probable that an estimate that 6 per cent. of the Indian immigrant population are Madrasis would be about correct. From the commencement of immigration to date, 14,026 immigrants arrived from Madras and 156,995 from Calcutta. These figures give a proportion of 8·93 Madras to 100 Calcutta immigrants. The mortality among Madras immigrants was much greater, in the early days of immigration, than among those from Calcutta, and, therefore, the difference between the proportion of each class introduced and those now in the colony would show a reduction among the Madrasis.

---

14. NON-EFFECTIVE IMMIGRANTS.

The re-classification of coolies, after their arrival in the colony, into able-bodied and non-effective, irrespective of the terms of the contract made in India, has been the subject of much discussion and correspondence. The emigrants are selected by the colony's Agents in India as suitable for field labour, and except in the case of individual members of a family, who through age or infirmity are unfit for labour, but are permitted to accompany their relatives as dependants, free from any labour contract, are all entitled to full wages; but it necessarily happens that during the voyage a certain number fall sick and become unfit for allotment as able-bodied labourers. Some of these on arrival and examination in the colony are found to be permanently unfit for full work, and others recover sufficiently, after treatment in hospital, to be classed as able-bodied labourers. Of those permanently unfit, some are returned to their homes in India at the expense of the colony, a few remain in the public charitable institutions, and others are allotted to estates as labourers, not able-bodied, for whom the employer pays only a portion of the indenture fee intended to reimburse the colony for the expense of the introduction and ultimate return of the cooly to India, and the cost of the Immigration Department and other charges to which the colony is subjected by the presence of immigrants. The wages of such immigrants are proportionate to the work of which they are capable.

Section 47 of the Immigration Ordinance of 1891 is as follows:—

"If an immigrant is, in the opinion of the Immigration Agent-General, not capable of performing service under indenture, such immigrant may be detained at the depôt until he can be returned to the port or place from whence he came, or until he is otherwise dealt with by the Immigration Agent-General."

Section 51.—"In any allotment the Immigration Agent-General shall, with the assistance of the Medical Inspector or of the Health Officer of the Port, distinguish every immigrant who is in his opinion not able-bodied, and not capable of performing service as an agricultural labourer, and the indenture fee payable . . . . . shall be such part of that which would have been payable . . . . . if he had been an able-bodied immigrant, as the Immigration Agent-General may think proper, or such immigrant may be indentured without payment of any indenture fee," &c.

Section 175.—"If within six months after the allotment of any indentured immigrant, he dies, or it appears that he has any disease or other disability as may render him permanently unable to perform service under indenture, and if the employer sends to the Immigration Agent-General a certificate of the death, disease or disability of such immigrant, under the hand of the Government Medical Officer of the district, specifying the particulars of such death, disease or disability, the Immigration Agent-General may declare the indenture of such immigrant void, and the indenture fee paid in respect of such immigrant shall thereupon become repayable to the employer out of the Immigration Fund."

It might be said that a system which permitted of labourers being recruited in India under promise of payment of certain wages which, when they arrived in the colony, they might or might not receive, was inequitable and open to abuse; but after having given the matter much consideration, I am glad to be able to say that the arrangements made are the best possible both in the interests of the cooly and the employer; and the wages are adjusted in strict fairness to the amount of work done. This is, perhaps happily, almost a necessary result of the system of task work and wages as opposed to day or time work, and is one of the many strong arguments in favour of the former; day or time work being only suitable for coolies while new to the work, without settled habits of industry, and as yet unused to the colonial agricultural implements, and for certain special employments in which tasks cannot well be given, *e.g.*, watchmen, stock-keepers, *bund* repairers and domestic servants. To keep the mass of labourers on continual day work is to degrade them to the level of drudges, who can have no interest in the amount or quality of work done, and whose only object is to shuffle through the day with as little exertion as possible, so long as they avoid the watchful eye of the overseer. It destroys all desire to raise themselves to the position of independent labourers, and in those colonies where the system obtains, though not in British Guiana, together with perpetual rations supplied by the estate in lieu of a part of the wages earned, ruins their habits of industry and self-reliance.

Under the task system every one gets the exact value of the work he has satisfactorily performed, and is at once rewarded for extra diligence or skill. In the same way the non-effective man, who at first is unable to keep pace with the able-bodied, may by perseverance and increased attention end in earning much higher wages than his stronger but lazier comrades. Immigration has continued now for so many years that there are to be found on every estate East Indians of all ages, from the very young to the very old, who, if they like to work, will be paid whatever their labour may be worth. This is only possible under the task system, and where day work is enforced the position of these people, including non-effectives, is a difficult one.

In the old ordinances three months was the limit up to which an employer might declare an immigrant "non-effective" and obtain remission of or a portion of the indenture fee; but in the ordinance of 1891 this is extended to six months. I cannot think this is an improvement or at all necessary, for three months is plenty of time to give to an employer to make up his mind whether an immigrant has a disease permanently disabling him from full work; but it does not, so long as the task system is in force, materially affect the condition or wages of the cooly, and it appears to me more a matter for the colony to settle with the employer. If the colony chooses to saddle itself with the cost of introduction and return of all coolies who may permanently be rendered unfit for full work during the first six months of indenture instead of three months, I do not see that any one need object. I now give the information and table furnished by the British Guiana Immigration Office.

The following statement shows the number of East Indians who have been found permanently inefficient or unfit for allotment on arrival, the number allotted on arrival at reduced fees on account of physical disability for full work, and the number certified under section 53 of Ordinance VII of 1873 as permanently unfit for agricultural labour within three months after allotment, during the ten years 1881 to 1890, both inclusive:—

Year.	Found permanently inefficient or unfit for allotment on arrival.							Allotted at reduced fees.					Incapacitated within three months after allotment.		
	Alms House.	Leper Asylum.	Lunatic Asylum.	To be returned to India.	Died in Colonial Hospital.	Unallotted remaining in Colony.	Total.	¾	½	¼	0	Total.	Death.	Disability.	Total.
1881	3	...	2	2	22	...	29	42	56	21	36	155	23	25	48
1882	1	...	2	5	15	...	23	30	43	13	13	99	15	10	25
1883	...	3	4	...	13	...	20	10	35	4	8	57	14	7	21
1884	1	2	...	4	9	...	16	33	70	30	47	180	11	19	30
1885	...	...	4	7	11	...	22	54	93	21	46	214	18	40	58
1886	...	...	4	3	5	1	13	56	54	5	13	128	18	8	26
1887	1	...	4	10	11	5	31	58	76	6	19	159	24	28	52
1888	...	...	3	6	11	2	22	21	37	11	7	76	14	18	32
1889	1	...	1	14	11	4	31	36	51	8	13	108	5	31	36
1890	1	...	1	12	12	6	32	28	38	4	9	79	9	28	37

From the above table it will be seen that during the ten years 1881 to 1890, five immigrants were found on arrival to be lepers and 25 to be suffering from lunacy, and that in addition to these, 26 were pronounced to be unfit from other causes for labour on an estate.

Immigrants who are unallotted to any estate in consequence of inefficiency are either sent to the Alms House, or kept in depôt until they can be sent

back to India. These kept in depôt are immigrants whose condition is not such as to require the special care and attention afforded by a public institution such as the Alms House. During the period 1881 to 1890 there were 365 cases of indenture fees being refunded in consequence of the death or disability of immigrants within three months after allotment. When the Immigration Agent-General receives a certificate under this section, that the immigrant named therein "has any such disease or other disability as may render him permanently unable to perform service under indenture," he does not at once proceed to cancel the indenture and arrange for the refund of the indenture fees, unless perfectly satisfied that there is no prospect of any improvement taking place in the condition of the immigrant. If it should appear to him that the disability might prove to be merely temporary, he either gives instructions for the immigrant to be sent to the depôt for observation and examination by the Medical Inspector, or directs the Sub-Immigration Agent to keep the immigrant under special notice and report monthly on his condition. This precaution has been justified by results, for in some instances the immigrants have gradually recovered and turned out good labourers.

15. RETURN IMMIGRANTS.

Statement showing the number of immigrants introduced from other colonies and of return immigrants who came to this colony at their own expense or under indenture during the last twenty years.

Year.	Total casuals.	Re-emigrated from India.		
		Formerly of Demerara.	Formerly of other colonies.	Paid passage.
	1	2	3	4
1871	31	...	...	6
1872	58	...	...	13
1873	177	...	...	19
1874	90	84	17	36
1875	39	52	11	13
1876	44	95	19	6
1877	64	86	38	13
1878	77	111	39	23
1879	177	213	66	53
1880	87	133	125	22
1881	54	167	80	26
1882	66	194	79	21
1883	68	128	66	26
1884	27	349	74	18
1885	123	207	101	43
1886	111	245	203	56
1887	77	255	190	35
1888	156	167	206	16
1889	106	158	91	37
1890	93	197	118	45

The figures in column 1 include those in column 4, which are, of course, contained in columns 2 and 3.

The term "Casual" is applied to the following classes of persons:—

1*st.*—East Indians who come from India, paying their own passages.

2*nd.*—East Indians who have served or been resident in other colonies or countries and come to this colony at their own expense.

3*rd.*—East Indians who, after having come to this colony as immigrants, left it with or without passports, before the expiration of a

continuous residence of ten years, to go to another colony or elsewhere, and, after a time, return to it.

The names and description of all persons who are included in the above three classes, and who present themselves at the Immigration office, are recorded in a register called "The Casual Register," and receive "Casual Certificates" to enable them to obtain employment and relieve them from any apprehension of being molested on suspicion of being indentured immigrants.

16. REMITTANCES FROM INDIA BY RETURN IMMIGRANTS.

Statement showing the amounts brought from India by return immigrants during the seasons 1881-1882 *to* 1890-91.

Year.	Ship.	Amount.	Year.	Ship.	Amount.	Year	Ship.	Amount.
		Rs.			Rs.			Rs.
1881	"Plassey"	6,470	1884	"Jorawur"	100	1888	"Ganges"	366
	"Ellora"	400	1885	"Newnham"	560		"Main"	2,720
1882	"North"	280		"Bann"	4,050		"Sheila"	12,104
	"Bayard"	1,280		"Boyne"	840		"Brenda"	1,790
	"Howrah"	1,300		"Foyle"	4,080		"Allanshaw"	55
	"Newcastle"	245		"Allanshaw"	5,870	1889	"Foyle"	36,519
	"Ellora"	4,808		"Jorawur"	837		"Allanshaw"	4,888
	"Plassey"	3,705	1886	"Main"	1,180		"Sheila"	4,065
1883	"Silhet"	1,100		"Ganges"	880		"Rhine"	1,738
	"Rohilla"	640		"Bann"	3,150	1890	"The Bruce"	360
	"Berar"*	2,630		"Avoca"	5,249		"Foyle"	1,348
	"North"	2,350		"Foyle"	6,580		"Sheila"	589
	"Bann"	8,685	1887	"Main"	2,443		"Rhone"	2,975
1884	"Foyle"	800		"Allanshaw"	810		"Main"	1,921
	"Brit. Peer"	2,890		"Hereford"	1,660		"Brenda"	4,100
	"Ganges"	2,741		"Brit. Peer"	330	1891	"Elbe"	298
	"The Bruce"	4,844		"Rhine"	2,240		"Foyle"	3,588
	"Shannon"	4,566		"The Bruce"	410		"Bann"	6,678
	"Foyle"	3,100		"Foyle"	1,685			
	"Allanshaw"	845		"Allanshaw"	1,730		Total ...	1,83,478

* In addition, one immigrant deposited a bag containing 50 sovereigns with the Surgeon-Superintendent of the vessel for safe keeping.

17. NUMBER OF IMMIGRANTS UNDER INDENTURE TO, OR RESIDING ON, ESTATES; ALSO OF THOSE EMPLOYED BY PUBLIC ESTABLISHMENTS, &c.

Estimated population (East Indian)		31 Decr. '90—107,424	
(*a*) Indentured	...	15,567	
Unindentured	...	39,320	
Children	...	17,939	
Total residing on estates	...	72,826	
„ not „ „ „	...	34,598	
			107,424
(*b*) Public Works Department ...	...	from 50 to 500 weekly.	
Police Department ...	...	69	
Receiver-General's Department	...	1	
Administrator-General's Department	...	1	
Crown Lands Department ...	...	1	
Chief Commissary's Department	...	421	
Town Council, Georgetown	...	235	
„ „ New Amsterdam	...	27	
Immigration Department ...	...	17	
Interpreters at Magistrates' Courts	...	14	
Public Hospital, Georgetown	...	8	
„ „ New Amsterdam	...	2	
„ „ Suddie ...	...	2	
Lunatic Asylum ...	...	1	

The number of immigrants employed by the Public Works Department, the Chief Commissary's Department, and the Town Councils of Georgetown and New Amsterdam, necessarily varies at different seasons of the year. Immigrants are not employed by the Public Works Department in the town, but in the country districts, where they are engaged as watchmen, axemen, at digging trenches, weeding, etc. At the canals polder they are reported by the Colonial Civil Engineer to be indispensable. The following are the rates of wages paid to them:—

Watchmen	32 to 48 cents per day.
Axemen	40 „ „ „
Trench digging	32 to 56 „ „ „ or 48 cents per rood.

Other work is done by the task, and is paid for at rates equal to, if not above, those paid on the estates.

The work done by immigrants employed by the Chief Commissary's Department enables them to earn from 16 to 48 cents per day, and is connected with making up and keeping in good order the roads in the country districts, trench digging, weeding, etc. During the year 1890, 421 immigrants were employed from time to time according to the season of the year. Two foremen are paid $25 and $30 per month respectively.

The number of immigrants working under the Town Council, Georgetown, fluctuates considerably, and this will be understood from the fact that they are employed in making up the streets of the city when required, keeping them in order, weeding the sides, etc. During the third week in July, when I applied to the Town Superintendent for information on the subject, there were 235 immigrants at work, and they were paid as follows:—

7 Foremen at	$4 per week.
178 Male labourers at	48 cents per day.
24 Female „ at	24 „ „
21 Boys (watering carts and cart boys) at ...	16 to 24 cents per day.
5 Girls (water-carriers) at	8 cents per day.

During the same week there were 27 immigrants employed by the Town Superintendent, New Amsterdam, and their wages ranged from 24 to 48 cents per day, according to the nature of the work performed by them.

Of the 17 persons employed by the Immigration Department, 7 are interpreters, 8 are apprentices, and 2 messengers.

The chief interpreter, who has also charge of the depôt, receives a salary of $60 per month. The other interpreters are paid from $20 to $40, except the Chinese Interpreter, who receives $50, and the apprentices from $10 to $20 per month. Of the interpreters and apprentices, 22 are Creoles born in the colony. The 14 interpreters are attached to the Magistrates' Courts, and are paid from $20 to $40 per month.

The 13 immigrants employed at the Public Hospitals in Georgetown, New Amsterdam, Suddie, and the Lunatic Asylum, are engaged as clerks, porters, servants and interpreters, and receive from $11 to $17 per month, except one employed as a scavenger, who is paid $9.

The above information is most valuable as showing the high rates of wages given to coolies after they have become skilled in the use of the colonial implements. The wages of these free coolies vary from 1*s.* 6*d.* to 2*s.* 6*d.* a day. As remarked in my Diary, the "means" or averages of wages earned show that both indentured and free coolies are earning higher wages than they did ten years ago.

---

18. LICENSES.

As showing the respectable position as independent tradesmen and owners of horses, mules, carts, &c., held by many who could not have expected to have enjoyed such advantages in their own country, as well as to show how the colony benefits financially by their presence, I have obtained a list of the licenses issued.

Contrary to my experience of Trinidad where the coolies are the principal shopkeepers of the island, I find the former industrial occupants of the soil—the Portuguese and the Chinese—have been able to hold their own with greater success, and often the estate is indebted to them for the provision of all ready money to meet the wages of labourers and current expenses of the estate. The shop on an estate occupies a very important position as regards the comfort of the labourers, for the next shop may be so distant that they are practically dependent on that one for their supplies. The *truck* system does not exist in this colony, and the only interest the estate has in the shop is the rent it obtains for the building, and in cases where the shopman is the temporary banker, the rent is often remitted or only a nominal sum charged. There are often two or three shops on an estate, one or more of which may be owned by coolies. The return of the British Guiana Immigration Office given below shows that besides 1,620 hucksters or itinerant "boxwallahs," there are 408 licensed provision shops, the property of coolies. In addition to selling provisions and an assortment of necessaries of all descriptions, they are always ready to lend money on the usual Indian terms of usury, and many become very wealthy men.

The following statement shows the number of licenses issued to immigrants during this year for the sale of liquor and provisions, opium, ganja and cocoanut toddy, and also of licenses to keep dogs, carts, cabs, guns, horses and donkeys:—

Spirit shops.	Provision shops.	Hucksters.	Sale of opium or ganja.	Cocoanut toddy.	Dogs.	Donkey carts.	Mule carts.	Cabs.	Guns.	Horses.
2	408	1,620	25	...	687	249	44	45	45	191

It may be mentioned that the conveyance of passengers on the Arabian Coast, Essequibo, from Suddie to plantation Hampton Court, is carried on principally by means of five vans owned by East Indian immigrants, the necessary outlay in each case for mules, van, &c., being about $1,000.

At the Georgetown market, one of the butchers is of East Indian parentage. He pays $42-50 per month rent for the stalls occupied by him.

Three other tenants in the market, one of whom came to the colony in the ship *Emerald Isle* in 1848, and another in the ship *Blue Jacket* in 1857, are East Indians, and they pay as rent 60 cents per day, $3-50 per month, and $4-50 per month respectively.

19. SAVINGS OF IMMIGRANTS.

The table given below does not in any way represent the actual wealth of the coolies now in British Guiana, but only that small portion of it which they keep in hard cash in the Savings Banks. Most of their money is invested in far more lucrative, if less certain, undertakings, and they are not content to receive only the low rate of interest payable by the bank. The various statements contained in this note show how far the Colonial Government is officially cognizant of their various properties; but there is much of which no official record can be obtained. Some of these are the jewels and coins of gold and silver with which, more especially at certain festivals, they profusely ornament themselves; the very large sums of money lent out at interest; the crops growing on the large area of land they own; the value of the stock in their shops and packs, or invested in carts, wains, cabs, and boats, horses, mules and donkeys. No estimate has been made of the value of the 25,000 head of cattle grazed by coolies on the sugar estates, or of their sheep and goats, or of the numerous large herds of cattle grazed on pastures not belonging to estates and in the waste land of the colony, of which no count can be taken. When I was in Suriman I found that an active trade in the export of cattle was going on between the coolies of British Guiana and the inhabitants of Niekeri on the Dutch side of the Corentyne. Very large droves of pigs are owned and farmed by low-caste coolies, and pork is one of the principal articles of diet in all these colonies. No proper estimate can be made of the number of houses owned by them or of land, except that which has been alienated by Government and for which transports have been effected. In fact, very little of their wealth can be shown on paper, and it requires a visit to the villages and settlements of East Indians, springing up in every direction, surrounded by miles of paddy fields, all their own cultivation, and the signs of prosperous contentment visible on every side, before the change that has come upon them in their adopted country can be fully realized.

The following statement shows the amounts at credit of East Indian immigrants in the Government and Post Office Savings Banks on the 31st December, each year, from 1881 to 1890, both inclusive:—

Year.	Government Savings Bank.						P. O. Savings Bank.			
	East Indians.				Chinese.					
	Depositors.	£.	s.	d.	Depositors.	£. s. d.	Depositors.	£.	s.	d.
1881	4,512	92,203	3	8½	26	308 16 2				
1882	5,566	115,927	0	7	34	523 6 3½				
1883	6,274	125,243	7	0	43	1,089 9 1½				
1884	5,912	107,478	4	7½	42	784 14 8				
1885	5,401	87,839	15	5	46	344 4 6				
1886	5,563	88,740	17	2	49	586 5 7½				
1887	5,821	91,375	4	6	40	638 18 11				
1888	4,388	82,987	6	11½	38	765 12 1				
1889	6,615	106,796	7	6	31	646 8 10	24	142	7	2
1890	6,323	115,706	16	11	17	625 16 9	259	2,125	15	9

The total amount, therefore, at credit of East Indian immigrants on the 31st December 1890 in the Government and Post Office Savings Banks was £117,882-11-8, equal to $565,596-64.

The system of Post Office Savings Banks, conducted in a similar manner to those in the United Kingdom, was inaugurated at the beginning of December 1889, and the Postmaster-General, in his report on the working of the Banks for this month, stated that at the close of the month the total number of depositors was 136, and the total amount deposited $2,279-17. Of this amount, the sum of $683-32 was deposited by 24 East Indian immigrants; and in referring to the immigrant population the Postmaster-General remarked as follows:—

"Up to the end of the month, the coolies had been slow to avail themselves "of the Bank, and in the absence of copies of the Regulations and Forms of "Declaration printed in the vernacular, which had been ordered from India, it "was considered inadvisable to make any particular attempt to reach them. It "is anticipated that they will ultimately form a large proportion of the "depositors."

He also reported as follows, in regard to a proposed addition to the number of these Banks, for the benefit of the immigrants residing at the extreme end of the Corentyne coast:—

"On the 5th December I received an official communication from the "Immigration Department, in which I was informed that, in anticipation of the "opening of a Savings Bank in that district, the Manager of Skeldon had in "a few days obtained the names of sixty immigrants on that estate anxious to "deposit money.

"This was at once laid before the Government with the request that I "might establish a bank at the Skeldon Post Office; and His Excellency the "Governor, having authorized me to provide for this in my annual estimate, "provision has been made accordingly. I took the same opportunity of "bringing before the Government the request made to me by many depositors, "that I would open a bank in Georgetown, and I suggested that a bank should "be established at the Branch Post Office in Carmichael Street. This sugges-"tion is under the consideration of the Government."

The regulations and forms referred to by the Postmaster-General were received on the 21st November 1889, and were at once distributed throughout the colony. They were printed in Nagri, Bengali and Urdu.

20. REMITTANCES TO INDIA, AND CORRESPONDENCE.

The following statement gives the amount of money remitted by Indian immigrants for ten years, viz., from 1881 to 1890, and also the number of letters forwarded to India:—

Year.	Remitted through this Department.	Remitted by Post Office orders.	Letters sent through this Dept.	Registered letters, Post Office.
	£. s. d.	£. s. d.		
1881 ...	473 11 8		591	
1882 ...	673 18 11		785	
1883 ...	3,259 4 10		1,220	
1884 ...	1,190 10 4		1,439	
1885 ...	1,398 2 6½	80 7 5	1,839	
1886 ...	1,076 17 6	481 16 1	1,726	
1887 ...	631 12 8	1,276 17 11	1,312	948
1888 ...	732 4 0	2,648 16 0	1,286	1,323
1889 ...	.....	4,840 18 0	1,894	1,422
1890 ...	.....	5,192 3 11	2,035	1,705

Previous to December 1888, remittances were made through the office of the Colonial Receiver-General in this colony and the Indian Treasury, instead of, as now, by means of Post Office money-orders. It will be seen that there has been a large increase in the amount of the remittances.

There has also been an extension of the correspondence with India. Every effort has been made by the Immigration Department to encourage correspondence between the immigrants and their friends in India, by the gratuitous transmission of letters to Calcutta, the publication of rules to regulate the transmission of letters, printed in Nagri, Persian and Bengali, and by obtaining from India a supply of Indian stamps, four-and-a-half anna and one anna, which immigrants can purchase to cover the cost of the inland postage of their letters from Calcutta to their destination, and also to prepay the replies.

In addition to the letters forwarded through this office, there is now an increasing number posted direct by the immigrants at the Post Office. On this subject the following paragraph appears in the Report of the Immigration Agent-General for 1890:—

"There were 2,035 letters forwarded by immigrants in the colony to their "friends and relatives in India, through the medium of this Department, being "an increase of 141 over the number transmitted last year; and 1,705 letters "were registered at the Post Office for transmission to that country, as against "1,422 last year.

"No record of the number of letters posted in the ordinary course has been "kept; but the weight of the mails sent was 80lb. 4½oz., which, excluding the "registered letters above referred to, probably represented about 2,000 letters."

21. CATTLE.

The following figures show the number of cattle, sheep, etc., owned by East Indian immigrants and pastured on the estates on which they reside, during the year 1890:—

	Cattle.	Sheep, etc.
Indentured	4,067	2,088
Unindentured	16,564	3,238

These figures do not, however, represent the total number of cattle owned by immigrants indentured to or resident on estates, as in many instances the cattle are kept in pastures not connected with the estates, and no record can be obtained of these.

In the same manner, no information can be supplied as to the number of cattle owned by immigrants who do not reside on the estates, but the number is considerable. On this subject Mr. Griffin, Sub-Immigration Agent, Berbice, reported as follows:—"There are many wealthy immigrants not residing on "estates, who own large herds of cattle of which it would be impossible to "ascertain anything like a correct number. For instance, the heirs of Gun-"garam at Lovely Lass, West Coast, own upwards of 400 head. Purbhoo at "Brahn has upwards of 700 head of cattle, and others all along the coast own "cattle."

The immigrants as a rule dispose of their milk on the estates on which they reside and in the neighbouring villages, the negroes, who seldom keep cattle, being the chief purchasers, although large quantities are consumed by the coolies themselves.

From the East Coast, Demerara, large quantities are sent by train to Georgetown, where a ready market can always be guaranteed; and the town of New Amsterdam, Berbice, affords the same advantages to cattle owners in its vicinity.

The immigrants on plantation Nonpareil, East Coast, Demerara, have in addition the opportunity of supplying the dairy lately started on that estate by the manager, who purchases all the milk which the coolies can obtain.

The hospitals in general are supplied by the managers, but it is seldom that they can furnish the quantities required, and recourse is then had to the immigrants to make up the deficiency.

No butter is made by the immigrants.

The number of individual immigrants owning cattle cannot be ascertained.

---

22. COMMUTATION.

Statement showing the number of immigrants who paid commutation money for the unexpired terms of their service under indenture from 1872 *to* 1890.

Year.	Number.	Year.	Number.
1872	58	1882	33
1873	186	1883	47
1874	550	1884	42
1875	617	1885	22
1876	94	1886	18
1877	111	1887	32
1878	25	1888	33
1879	6	1889	43
1880	15	1890	41
1881	32		

Commutation is, as a rule, always allowed, provided the immigrant is in a position to support himself when released from indenture. The consent of the employer is, of course, required, although the Governor has the power under Ordinance 4 of 1876, section 8, should a case arise requiring the exercise of it, to order the indenture of the immigrant to be determined on payment of commutation money, without the consent of the employer.

There are, however, certain occasions on which it is necessary for applications for commutation to be refused, as, for instance, in "wife cases" when the applications are made by men or women who have been transferred to prevent violence; or by persons who have been removed from their estates on account of the dangerous influence they have exercised over other immigrants. If commutation were to be sanctioned in such cases, the parties when released from indenture would return to the neighbourhood of the estates from which they had been transferred, and be a source of constant trouble and anxiety. It is very rarely that employers object to immigrants paying commutation money, but when they do so, there is generally some reasonable cause.

23. TRANSFERS.

The following is a statement showing the number of transfers of immigrants from one estate to another for ten years, viz., 1881 to 1890, and the reasons for such transfers:—

Year.	Total.	Wife cases.	At request of immigrants.	Quarrelsome nature.	Insubordination. This includes wives of offenders.	Ill-health.	Abandonment or amalgamation of estates.	By order of Governor, section 63, Ord. 7, 1873.
1881	84	78	6	...	...	...	...	...
1882	212	47	18	1	22	...	124	...
1883	226	68	45	5	7	3	92	6
1884	87	60	15	...	3	6	...	3
1885	121	30	39	...	52	...	...	...
1886	237	30	82	...	42	1	82	...
1887	147	69	34	1	42	1	...	...
1888	183	64	50	4	60	5	...	...
1889	118	72	23	...	23	...	...	...
1890	87	51	21	1	14	...	...	...

It will be seen from the above table that most of the transfers are made in what are called "wife cases." These cases come under the notice of the Immigration Agent-General, either by complaints made to him by the immigrants themselves as to the conduct of their wives or husbands, as the case may be, or through the Magistrates, who forward to the Immigration Agent-General copies of all proceedings in which immigrants have been charged before them with having threatened or used violence towards their wives or reputed wives, or with having enticed away the wives of other immigrants.

When a complaint is made by an immigrant to the Immigration Agent-General or to a Sub-Immigration Agent, an enquiry is at once held by the Sub-Immigration Agent on the estate in order to obtain full information. In some instances he succeeds in bringing about a reconciliation, but when this is the case, the manager is always requested to keep a watchful eye on the immigrants, so as to guard against danger of violence in the event of a fresh quarrel.

When it is found impossible to settle matters in this manner, measures are at once taken for a separation by the removal of one of the parties to another estate.

It has sometimes been found difficult to make arrangements for a transfer, as there is a disinclination on the part of managers of estates to receive transferred immigrants. As a rule, however, this difficulty is confined to cases where the immigrant to be transferred is indentured to an estate which is the only one owned by the proprietor; and in order that the transfer may be effected, it has often been necessary for the proprietor or his attorney to consent to the transfer being made without payment to him, by the estate to which the immigrant is removed, of the proportionate amount of the indenture fee represented by the unexpired term of service.

Transfers "by order of the Governor" in the above table include cases of removal of an immigrant from the estate to which he is indentured to another estate belonging to a different proprietor who has consented to receive the immigrant.

When an immigrant is removed to an estate belonging to the same proprietor, the Immigration Agent-General has power under section 66 of Ordinance 7 of 1873 to settle the transfer.

24. RE-INDENTURE.

As no re-indentures have been made in British Guiana since 1875, it is unnecessary to refer to this subject here. The disadvantages to the immigrant and the abuses arising from the desire to retain coolies by re-indenture instead of by obtaining their goodwill, has been fully discussed in other places. If the Immigration Ordinance of 1891 becomes law, re-indentures will be no longer legal. The natural substitute for these arbitrary and one-sided arrangements has been found in mutual contracts governed by the ordinary civil laws affecting the hiring of labourers, and which have no connection with the immigration ordinances, from which they are expressly separated by section 117 of 1891, which runs thus:—

"117. The hiring, whether verbal or in writing, of any immigrant possessed of or entitled to a certificate of exemption from labour, shall be subject to, and governed by, the provisions of any ordinance now or hereafter to be in force, regulating the hiring of servants in husbandry and other labourers not being immigrants within the meaning of this ordinance. Provided that no contract of any such immigrant shall be taken to be an indenture within the meaning of this ordinance. Provided also that no contract or hiring for service of any such immigrant shall be taken to be a contract for more than one month certain from the time of entering into service, any express or implied agreement to the contrary notwithstanding."

The payment of bounty on re-indenture ceased entirely in 1875, the cause being the increase of the fee payable by employers to the Immigration Fund, in respect of each immigrant re-indentured, from $95 to $120 in 1873, and to $200 in 1875.

The following is an extract from the Annual Report of the Immigration Agent-General for the year 1873 on this subject:—

"In consequence of the sum of ninety-five dollars being found insufficient, " by a resolution of the Honourable the Court of Policy, dated Tuesday, the 9th " day of December 1873, it was resolved that the indenture fee to be paid and " payable by employers to the Immigration Fund in respect of each adult East " Indian immigrant allotted after the 1st day of July 1873, shall be ninety-five " dollars; and in respect to each Indian immigrant re-indentured after the pass- " ing of this resolution, the sum of $120." This resolution caused practically the discontinuance of the payment of bounty on re-indenture of immigrants.

Again, in the Annual Report for 1874, the Immigration Agent-General wrote as follows:—" The indenture fee payable by employers on the re- " indenture of immigrants since the resolution of the Honourable the Court of " Policy, dated Tuesday, the 9th day of December 1873, has been the sum of one " hundred and twenty dollars, which has practically caused almost the entire dis- " continuance of the payment of bounty on the re-indenture of immigrants."

On Monday, the 28th June 1875, the fee was still further increased by a resolution of the Court of Policy raising it to two hundred dollars. This put an end to the system of re-indenture. The following figures show the number of immigrants who took bounty in each of the six years 1871 to 1875, both inclusive:—

Year.	Entitled to back passage.	Not entitled to back passage.	Total.
1870	1,939	1,741	3,680
1871	2,170	2,042	1,212
1872	2,483	2,189	4,672
1873	973	946	1,919
1874	10	23	33
1875 May	29	92	121

The immigrants, 121 in number, who took bounty in 1875 were all re-indentured to one estate, Adelphi, Berbice, which was very much in want of labour. That was the last occasion on which bounty was paid.

In addition to the financial necessity for an increase of the fee payable on re-indenture, there was at the same time a desire on the part of those proprietors who kept up, year after year, their indentured gangs by requisitions for immigrants from India, and who thereby contributed largely to the Immigration Fund, to prevent other employers, who did not apply for new immigrants,

from obtaining, by re-indenture, the services of acclimatised immigrants without having in any way contributed towards their introduction.

An attempt was made in 1882 to revive re-indenture, but without success. Mr. Mitchell, in his Annual Report for that year, made the following reference to the subject:—"This subject came up for discussion at the last meeting of "the Combined Court, and was ably advocated by Mr. D. C. Cameron. His "eloquence failed, however, to convince the majority that 'these dry bones "should live'.....Looking at the question broadly, it appears that when re-"indenture was in vogue there were frequent rows on the estates, and that "these disturbances occurred chiefly among re-indentured immigrants, attribut-"able to a variety of causes, such as a change of managers, or some favourite "overseer or driver leaving, and the people more immediately under his "charge wishing to follow.....It appears to me that the raising of "the fee for re-indenture to a prohibitive tariff was simply a very natural "move to distribute more equally the burden of the cost of intro-"duction. Estates, owing to favourable situation, abundant pasturage, or other "local advantages, became centres of attraction to time-expired immigrants. "The proprietors were thus in a position to secure the services of large numbers "of people, and glut their own labour market at the expense of their less "fortunate neighbours, who had shared with them originally the burden and "heat of the day in acclimatizing the new arrivals, who, for the first year at least, "are a constant source of anxiety and trouble to the manager and his assistants. "On the other hand, the proprietors of estates less favourably situated were com-"pelled to look on helplessly while their best seasoned hands, whose original "period of indenture had expired, betook themselves to fresh fields and pastures "new."

Under the Consolidated Immigration Ordinance, which has been passed this year as Ordinance No. 25 of 1891, the clauses of Ordinance 7 of 1873, under which contracts of service were entered into by immigrants after the expiration of their indentures, have been omitted.

25. MARRIAGE AND DIVORCE.

In connection with this subject, I annex a copy of a report made by me to the Government in 1885, giving statistics of the number of marriages registered under Ordinance. 10 of 1860 (the Heathen Marriage Ordinance) during the twelve years 1872 to 1883, both inclusive, with remarks on the working of the ordinance and pointing out its defects.

The following additional statistics show the number of marriages from 1884 to December 31st, 1890:—

Year.	Section 2.		Section 3.	
	Immigrants introduced.	Marriages.	Total population.	Marriages.
1884	4,705	335	92,678	115
1885	6,565	409	97,646	93
1886	3,511	306	100,281	87
1887	4,356	273	102,746	99
1888	2,892	244	103,849	87
1889	3,510	305	106,236	99
1890	4,575	375	107,424	67

In the Consolidation Immigration Ordinance, 25 of 1891, which includes the Marriage Law, the suggestions contained in the above report have been adopted, viz., legalizing under certain conditions marriages celebrated according to their own rites, facilitating marriages by rendering it unnecessary for the contracting parties to come to Georgetown, reducing the fees, and doing away with the difficulty in dealing with cases of "enticing away" a wife, by adding the words "cohabits with the wife of an immigrant, or who unlawfully harbours the wife of an immigrant," etc.

This last amendment of Ordinance 10 of 1860 had been previously made by Ordinance 2 of 1887.

Marriages contracted under the law of the colony, or registered under the law, are permanent, and cannot be dissolved by mutual consent. This can be done only by a divorce under Ordinance 2 of 1887, sections 8 and 9, the provisions of which have been embodied in the Consolidated Ordinance No. 25 of 1891. Under this enactment, where "one of the spouses is guilty of mis-"conduct entitling the other spouse to a divorce, the other spouse can apply "to the Magistrate for an order dissolving the marriage." The Magistrate then, after hearing the evidence of the parties and their witnessess, is required to transmit the statements made before him to the Registrar, to be laid before the Chief Justice for his decision; and if it should appear to the Chief Justice that the party applying for the divorce is entitled thereto, he is empowered in a summary way to grant an order dissolving the marriage. The fee payable in respect of such proceedings is $24, which amount is payable on the making of the application to the Magistrate.

The provisions in regard to divorce do not apply to marriages of Christian immigrants celebrated according to Christian rites.

If from want of means or other causes, the aggrieved party does not wish to apply for a divorce, and if a separation takes place, section 7 of Ordinance 2 of 1887 provides for an application being made to the Magistrate for a division of property. The property of immigrants either coming to the colony as man and wife, or married in the Colony under the Ordinance, is treated as "in community."

No marriage, except by Christian rites, is valid unless registered under the ordinance: and children of unregistered parents are considered as illegitimate and do not succeed to property.

Caste does not affect the validity of a marriage, and, therefore, marriages between persons of different castes, duly contracted and registered under the ordinance, are regarded as legal.

The age at which marriage can be contracted is 12 years in the case of a female immigrant and 15 years in the case of a male immigrant; but no girl between the age of 12 and 15 years can be married without the consent of the father or, in the event of his being dead, of the mother.

Under the Consolidated Ordinance, No. 25 of 1891, the age at which a girl can be married has been raised to 13 years, as is the case in Trinidad.

The question of age, and other matters connected with the marriage of immigrants, was the subject of lengthy correspondence between this Government, the Secretary of State, and the Indian Government.

In the event of both the parents of a girl who is a minor being dead, it has been the custom to regard her as a ward of the Court, and application has to be made to the Chief Justice for his consent to the marriage. Under the Consolidated Ordinance, however, the Immigration Agent-General is constituted the legal guardian of all orphans of East Indian parentage, and in the case of a proposed marriage, his sanction alone will be required.

The number of marriages between the ages of 12 and 15 are, however, few in number compared with marriages over the age of 15.

Reputed marriages are not recognised by law, except to the extent that under section 7 of Ordinance 2 of 1887, immigrants who have cohabited together, and subsequently cease to cohabit, can apply to a Magistrate for a division of the property to which they may be entitled.

It has, however, been the custom for the Administrator-General, in administering the estates of immigrants who have died intestate, to recognise the claim of a reputed wife or husband, if any, to a share in the property left by the deceased, provided there are reasonable grounds for believing that the party claiming has, directly or indirectly, been a contributor to the amount at credit of the estate; and the same practice has been followed by the Immigration Agent-General in dealing with the intestate estates of indentured immigrants under section 3 of Ordinance 10 of 1887. It is not, of course, possible in all cases for direct or absolute proof of contributorship to be adduced, but the general principle has been adopted that in the case of immigrants who have cohabited together for a number of years, unless there has been any previous division of property, there must have been such mutual assistance as to justify a claim to a share in the property. In a case submitted to the Attorney-General in 1886,

the following observation was made by him:—"Where an immigrant who is "not married at the time of his death, but who has been living with a woman "as his reputed wife, dies intestate, possessed of property, the Administrator-"General, if he learns on inquiry that the property has been acquired during "the cohabitation, and that both have contributed by their labour or otherwise "to the acquisition of the property, often, when disposing of the property, pro-"ceeds on the reasonable presumption that it has been acquired by their joint "efforts, and therefore divides the fund so created in equal shares, giving half "to the heirs of the man and half to the woman as being in reality her property "and not the property of the man."

As illustrating the indifference of coolies to caste, which so rigidly controls them in India, and to the ceremonies attending marriages which are incumbent upon them if they follow their hereditary personal law and religion, the Sub-Agent of immigration, during my tour through the county of Berbice, told me that lately many coolies had been married by the Presbyterian minister, and as a preliminary to marriage he first christened them. It appears that these coolies have no intention of becoming or remaining Christians; but the law lays down that heathen marriages are not recognized unless registered, and the survivor or heirs of an unregistered marriage do not inherit the property, nor are the children legitimate or entitled to succeed to their parents' property. The nearest registering station has hitherto been Georgetown, some days' journey, and it has therefore been a tax on coolies, marrying according to the rites of their own personal law and religion, to get it recognized as lawful. Not so Christian marriages which the minister or clergyman performing the ceremony can certify to as having been lawfully contracted. Many coolies, therefore, have found it more convenient to agree to be present at meaningless ceremonies of baptism and marriage according to Christian rites, and to pay the minister $2, instead of going all the way to Georgetown to register their marriage. Perhaps something may be credited to the variety and added importance of eing married after the manner of the sahebs whose customs of living and dress they are adopting. Under the new immigration ordinance, heathen marriages may be registered before any local Magistrate, so that they will not have the expense and trouble of going to Georgetown.

Complications have at times arisen in cases in which the deceased immigrant had a lawful wife or husband alive, from whom he or she had been separated for years without having been legally divorced. In such cases it is necessary to recognise the legal claim of the wife or husband, and the claim of the "reputed" husband or wife, equitable though it may be, has to be disregarded.

No. 408/3126/48

BRITISH GUIANA, IMMIGRATION DEPARTMENT,
23rd February 1885.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter No. 5634, dated the 8th December last, calling for a report, for the information of the Secretary of State, on the working of the Heathen Marriage Ordinance of 1860, and now beg to submit the following for transmission to His Lordship.

2. In order to furnish some reliable data from which to form an opinion on this subject, and on the extent to which the immigrants have availed themselves of the provisions of this special legislation which was introduced solely for their benefit, a statement has been prepared showing the number of immigrants registered under this ordinance during the twelve years 1872 to 1883, both inclusive, and also of the number of immigrants introduced and the total immigrant population in each of these years.

3. The marriages are divided into two classes, viz.—1st, of immigrants who came to the colony as husband and wife and were registered as such on arrival (section 2); and 2nd, of those who were married under section 3 after having been resident for some time in the colony.

4. It would appear that from the first introduction of the ordinance in 1863, immigrants, on arrival, gladly and willingly availed themselves of its provisions, and it was for many years the practice to register on arrival, under section 2, not only those who had been married in India, but others also who had been married on boardship by signing a document to that effect in the presence of the Surgeon and Master or other witnesses; as well as others who, at the time of allotment, expressed a wish to be married.

5. The provisions of this section seem, therefore, to have been extended to immigrants not entitled to be dealt with under it, as by the terms of section 2 the Agent-General is required to register all immigrants who "are believed to stand in the relation of husband and wife to eachother," and this can hardly be held to include those who merely apply to be so regarded. Now, however, registration under this section is confined to cases which come strictly within the conditions therein set forth.

6. Several years elapsed after the passing of the ordinance, before the immigrants throughout the colony showed any desire to avail themselves of its provisions; and during the first six years the average number of marriages was only 7 per annum. In the next four years the average was 26 per annum, and in 1872 the number registered rose to 85, and in 1873 to 95. The average for the ten years 1874 to 1883, both inclusive, was 71, the highest number in any one year having been 123 in 1882.

7. It would appear, therefore, from these figures, taken in conjunction with the great increase in population, that there is a want of appreciation on the part of the immigrants of the advantages afforded by the ordinance, and that it has failed to recommend itself to the large majority of them, as they continue for the most part to either live in concubinage, or to get married according to the customs of their own country.

8. It is therefore necessary to endeavour to arrive at the causes which have mainly contributed to produce this apparent indisposition on their part to avail themselves of the means provided for them by this ordinance of contracting legal marriage without any observance which could conflict with their religious or caste prejudices, and I am disposed to believe that the chief obstacle is to be found in the class of women to whom their choice is confined.

9. Respectable women do not, as a rule, emigrate, and the recruiters, forced by the regulations to obtain a certain proportion of women to men, are compelled to take any who offer themselves, or whom they can induce to try their fortunes in another land; and these are, for the most part, either prostitutes, or married women who have proved unfaithful to their husbands and been abandoned or turned from their homes.

10. With this knowledge, it is not to be wondered at that marriage with such women should be regarded as rather hazardous and objectionable, and that the men should prefer to live with them unfettered by the bonds of a legal union, rather than contract obligations where so little reliance can be placed on the fidelity of those to whom they would thereby be allied for life.

11. The prejudices of caste must also be regarded as exercising an influence in regard to marriage, for though to a great extent in abeyance in the colony, and obtruding itself but little, if at all, into the ordinary relations of life, yet it can easily be understood that in many cases persons of different caste, though not averse to living together as husband and wife, would hesitate before entering into a lasting and binding alliance, especially in view of the separation which would probably be rendered necessary on their return to India, when the rigorous restraints of caste would again assert their influence.

12. The simplicity and absence of all ceremony in the form of marriage is also thought by some persons to tend to diminish the appreciation of the immigrants for registration under the ordinance, accustomed as they are to great display in the celebration of marriages under their own rites; and it is no d u bt for this reason, and their fondness for ceremonial, that applications have been made by them to the clergy to be married in church, without, however, abjuring their own religion.

13. In dealing with this question, the attachment of the natives of India to their national customs must not be lost sight of. They regard a marriage, according to the custom of their own country, as equally if not more valid and binding than a contract entered into under any other form; and hence it may be a matter for consideration whether marriages celebrated by their "gurus," who might be specially selected, licensed and registered for that purpose, should not be duly recognised by law. I throw out this suggestion with some hesitation, and mainly in order that every phase of the subject may be brought under consideration.

14. The restriction imposed on the 14th section of the ordinance, by which all immigrants who wish to be married are compelled to come to George-

town for that purpose, must also operate unfavourably, as it involves great inconvenience, expense, and loss of time to those who live at a distance; and this, added to the fees payable under section 8, must in some cases act as a deterrent. The expedience of extending the power to act under the ordinance to the District Sub-Agents has already been recognised.

15. The protection afforded by the penal provisions of section 11 has been found to be to a great extent delusive, on account of the difference of opinion on the part of the Magistrates as to the evidence necessary to prove "enticing," and the difficulty, if not impossibility, of proving it, where rigid and literal interpretation is insisted upon. Complaints have, consequently, been often made by the immigrants that the law affords them no protection against seducers. Some Magistrates act in accordance with the views expressed by the late Sir John Lucie Smith, when the Attorney-General of this colony, in a minute dated the 8th February 1868, that the charge of "enticing does not require direct proof, but may be established by showing circumstances under which it may be legally inferred;" while others insist on actual and direct proof of enticing.

16. It has, on this account, been proposed to add the word "harbour" to this clause. The greater facility which would thereby be afforded for obtaining a conviction in a prosecution under this section would increase the efficacy of the ordinance, and produce greater confidence in its operation.

17. The expense attending a prosecution under this section, though not amounting to a large sum, is, however, a matter of consideration to immigrants who have not been long in the colony; and I would, therefore, suggest that the Magistrates should be empowered to issue, at their discretion, free summonses, in order that every facility may be afforded the immigrants to avail themselves of the protection of the law.

18. It has been proposed by the Attorney-General to limit the application of this clause to immigrants under indenture; but it appears to me that any such distinction would be inexplicable to the immigrants, and they would certainly feel very little regard for an enactment which protected them during a portion only of their married life. It would, I respectfully submit, be better to repeal the section altogether than to limit its operation in the manner proposed. This means of redress against seducers is even more necessary after the termination of indenture than during its continuance, as in the case of indentured immigrants, transfer to another estate can be resorted to as a means of preventing violence; whereas, when all the parties are unindentured, a prosecution under this section may be the only means of allaying irritation and preventing the injured husband from seeking revenge and committing a serious breach of the peace.

19. There can be no doubt that the ordinance offers great advantages to the immigrants, not only in regard to mutual protection, but also in securing the rights of their children to any property which they may possess. It is desirable, therefore, that the law should be brought more within their reach as already suggested, and that it should be further amended in those respects in which it is either difficult of application or otherwise defective.

20. In addition to the amendments already proposed, I would also submit the following:—

(*a*) *Section* 2.—Omit the words "and before such parties shall leave the ship" (6th and 7th line), as when the immigrants are landed immediately after arrival, this cannot be done.

(*b*) *Section* 3.—Before the Magistrates issue notices of intention to celebrate marriage, reference should, in the first place, be made to the Immigration Agent-General for information as to whether the records of his office disclose any impediment to the proposed marriage.

(*c*) *Section* 8.—The fee payable to the Immigration Agent-General was by order of the Combined Court, in June 1865, made payable to the Colonial Receiver-General. This section should be altered accordingly, and after the concluding words of the section "criminal prosecution," add "or for proceedings under section, 12 of this Ordinance." The fee payable to the Magistrate's clerk should, I think, be reduced to $1, if not altogether abolished.

(*d*) *Section* 11.—The addition of the words "harbour or" after "if any person shall," in first line, has already been suggested and approved. It is further advisable that the provisions of this clause and also of clause 12 should be extended to all marriages of immigrants recognised as legal, whether registered under this ordinance or otherwise.

21. The present law makes no provision for cases in which the husband and wife come to the colony in different ships, and I would, therefore, suggest that a clause should be introduced by which the marriage of such parties could be registered in the same manner as if they had both arrived by the same ship, instead of their having to pay fees and go through all the formalities and delay required by section 3 of the Ordinance, as has hitherto been the case.

22. In conclusion, I would observe that it appears to me necessary that there should be special legislation for the marriage of heathen immigrants, and for their mutual protection when married, as their moral and social condition, their religion, and their national customs and observances, place them in an exceptional position which must be recognised and provided for by enactments of an exceptional character. It is, therefore, desirable that the defects which have been found to exist in the present ordinance, and which have, to some extent at least, rendered its operation less successful and beneficial than it might otherwise have been, should receive early attention, and that an amended ordinance should be framed for the purpose of giving effec to the experience acquired under the working of the present law.

23. Exceptional and class legislation is, no doubt, as a rule, objectionable, and should be resorted to only where special circumstances render it really necessary. It is, therefore, desirable that the immigrants should, as far as possible, be brought under the ordinary laws of the colony after they have completed their term of service under indenture. This is already the case in matters in which their position is in all respects the same as that of the rest of the population: but in regard to labour, they are required, by special legislation, to produce a "Certificate of Exemption" before they can be employed. Their personal liberty is also affected by the regulations which render them liable to arrest, if they are unable, when called on, to produce such a certificate; and, further, they cannot leave the colony without a passport.

24. These regulations and restrictions have of necessity to be adopted as a condition necessary for the successful working of the immigration system; but in framing a Marriage Ordinance, the interests and convenience of the immigrants are alone consulted, the object aimed at being to improve their social and moral condition, and to benefit themselves and their children.

I have the honour to be,

SIR,

Your most obedient servant,

A. H. ALEXANDER,

Immigration Agent-General.

Return showing the number of marriages under Ordinance 10 *of* 1860, *under section* 2, *from* 1872 *to* 1883.

YEAR.	Number of immigrants introduced.	Number of marriages.
1872 ...	3,556	334
1873 ...	7,512	478
1874 ...	6,009	410
1875 ...	4,346	191
1876 ..	2,932	172
1877 ...	3,886	212
1878 ...	9,101	850
1879 ..	6,055	353
1880 ...	4,377	243
1881 ...	3,955	206
1882 ...	3,165	184
1883 ...	2,497	170

Return showing the number of marriages under Ordinance 10 *of* 1860, *under section* 3, *from* 1872 *to* 1883.

Year.	Total population.	Number of marriages.
1872 ..	52,693	85
1873 ...	59,012	94
1874 ...	64,227	37
1875 ...	67,005	21
1876 ...	68,689	22
1877 ...	70,499	39
1878 ...	78,214	39
1879 ...	83,563	98
1880 ...	86,207	117
1881 ...	87,988	101
1882 ...	89,789	123
1883 ...	91,115	114

26. WOMEN—PROPORTION AND TREATMENT OF.

A general opinion prevails in this and other colonies that some attempt should be made to increase the number of women accompanying the male members of their families as emigrants from India. Owing to the small proportion of marriageable women, many quarrels and crimes are caused, while the temptation to immorality, to which the women are exposed, is very great. Many of the women who emigrate are drawn from the bazars of India, or have fled from their homes to avoid the exposure of their shame. I do not think that the compulsory proportion of women should be increased, because that would only add to the already too great number of immoral women recruited to make up the required 40 per cent.; but the respectable male coolies from the North-West Provinces should have some additional inducements offered them to emigrate with their families, and it might be possible to offer this by alleviating in some measure the conditions of indenture at present identical for both men and women.

The opinion held here is that although five years' indenture is unnecessary in the case of women, it would not be desirable to do away with the indenture of women altogether. If they were not indentured at all, they would never learn to work; but having been once initiated into the use of implements, and having become accustomed to regular work, their husbands may be trusted not to allow them to remain idle—emptiers, and not fillers, of the family purse. For this purpose a two years' indenture would be sufficient. Even when under indenture, the labour laws should not be strictly enforced against them, and they should not be sent to prison except for persistent refusal to begin work while under indenture, and for disturbance and quarrels if often repeated with their neighbours. These terms seem very reasonable, and looking to the difficulty in obtaining women of respectable class to emigrate to the colonies, I think the experiment of indenturing female coolies for only two years is quite worth a trial.

27. DECEASED IMMIGRANTS' ESTATES.

The following is a statement showing the number of deceased immigrants' estates still outstanding, and the progress made towards the settlement of them :—

Being dealt with in Office.		Heirs being traced in India.		Awaiting sanction of Court of Policy.		Remittances being made to India.		Amounts notified by Protector in 1882 ; heirs not yet traced.		Not identified.	
No.	$ c.	No.	$ c.	No.	$ c.	No.	$ c.	No.	$ c.	No.	$ c.
17	647 43	91	5,926 86	3	404 79	22	1,391 05	81	2,754 26	46	1,477 75

Estates of deceased indentured immigrants dealt with by the Sub-Agents under section 3 *of Ordinance* 10 *of* 1887 (*not included above*).

Being dealt with in Office.		Heirs being traced in India.		Remittances being made to India.	
No.	$ c.	No	$ c.	No.	$ c.
5	65 31	7	155 57	2	32 75

With regard to the delay which took place in dealing with several of these cases, this arose from the fact that it was not until 1882 that the Immigration Department began to assist the Colonial Receiver-General in the matter of the unclaimed balances at the credit of estates of deceased immigrants ; and action was first taken on a list published in 1882 by the Colonial Receiver-General, containing the names of immigrants who had died between 1862 and 1879. The following reference to this subject occurs in the Annual Report of Mr. Mitchell, Immigration Agent-General, for the year 1881 :—" The Acting " Colonial Receiver-General, Mr. Gallagher, has just published a list of 266 " immigrants deceased intestate, dating from 1862 to 1879 inclusive, showing " £3,336-10-10 to their credit. A statement of their names has been sent " to Dr. Grant, the Protector at Calcutta, with the view of ascertaining who " are their heirs in India, when the several sums will be duly remitted to " the Protector at Calcutta on behalf of the legatees."

Considering the fact that in several instances there was no proper description of the immigrants given in the list, and no clue even, or at least a very slight one, to their identity, it is easy to understand that very great delay was caused and much time taken up in endeavouring to trace them.

In the Annual Report for 1882, Mr. Mitchell again alluded to this subject as follows :—" As mentioned in my last Annual Report, a list of 266 immigrants " deceased intestate, dating from 1862 to 1879, was published by the Acting " Receiver-General, showing the sum of £3,342-3-4½ lying to their credit. A " copy of this list was forwarded by me to the Protector at Calcutta, in No. 63C, " dated 24th June 1882, and a duplicate to the Agent on the 4th August " 1882, with the request that steps might be taken to ascertain who the " deceaseds' representatives in India were, when the Agent at Calcutta would be " advised to pay over to the heirs the amount at credit of the several estates.

" On the 7th March 1883, I sent a second list in duplicate, showing a further " sum of £1,037-12-9½ to the credit of persons deceased intestate in this " colony, and requested the Protector and the Colony's Agent to endeavour to " trace the heirs. Dr. Grant has, so far, succeeded in discovering the next-of-kin " of some 32 immigrants deceased intestate, a very fair beginning, looking to " the periods that have elapsed since their demise.....Among the items referred " to there are various sums at the credit of deceased immigrants whom we " have been unable to trace."

Forty-six of these immigrants still remain unidentified, and there is no prospect now of their particulars being ascertained.

The mode of settling intestate estates is fully set forth in the Annual Report of the Immigration Agent-General for the year 1890, paragraphs 42 to 49, both inclusive, of which the following is a copy:—

"42. It may be of interest to explain here the manner in which the estates "of immigrants who die intestate in this colony are dealt with.

"Under the Administrator-General's Ordinance, No. 8 of 1864, it was the "duty of the Government Secretary to furnish the Emigration Agent in India "with a copy of the *Official Gazette*, published during the month of January in "each year, containing notices of balances appertaining to the estates of Indian "immigrants deposited in the colony chest by the Administrator-General, and "this was practically the only means adopted for dealing with such estates. "The inadequacy of this system to lead to a final and efficient disposal of such "estates may be gathered from the fact that in a great many cases the lists did "not contain any description of the immigrants.

"43. This subject attracted the attention of Major J. D. Pitcher, who in "1882 was deputed by the Government of India to make an enquiry into the "system of emigration, and who in his report, dated 17th June 1882, made the "following remarks:—'Emigration would further acquire more popularity if "'greater pains were taken to ensure the estates of deceased persons reaching "'the next-of-kin.'

* * * * *

"'The subject is one which the Indian Government is bound to enquire into "'very strictly for the sake of the unfortunate and helpless women and children "'in this country, and which the Colonial Government will find to their own "'benefit to set on a just and liberal footing. The present machinery is too "'cumbrous. Lists of names occasionally appear in Gazettes which never reach "'the people, and in which the names of persons and places have, under "'the system of transliteration in vogue in the colonies, become completely "'disguised.'

"44. In consequence of the attention thus drawn to the importance and "necessity for more accurate information being supplied in such cases, the "assistance of this Department was applied for, and the following system was "then introduced:—

"On receipt of the Gazettes containing notices of unclaimed balances, each "Sub-Agent is furnished with a list of the names of those immigrants who died "in his district, and he is required to endeavour to ascertain the correct parti- "culars of those who may not have been fully described, and also to make "enquiries with a view to trace any relatives in the colony entitled to be regarded "as heirs of the deceased immigrants.

"45. In the event of no heirs being found, or in case of the claims being "regarded as of a doubtful character, a letter is written to the Emigration "Agent at Calcutta, reporting the death, as also the amount at credit of the "estate, for the information of the Protector of Emigrants, in order that he "may make the necessary enquiries in India.

"46. The procedure thus adopted on the publication of the Gazettes, is in "many cases anticipated by immediate action being taken when information of "an immigrant dying intestate and possessed of property is received at this "Office from the Administrator-General, from the employer or from any other "source.

"47. As soon as it has been ascertained through the Emigration Agent at "Calcutta that heirs in India to the estates of unindentured immigrants have "been traced, a petition is submitted by the Immigration Agent-General to the "Governor and Court of Policy, as required by section 120 of the Administrator- "General's Ordinance, No. 15 of 1887, asking that the Receiver-General may "be authorised to pay the amount: and on the petition being granted, intima- "tion is given by the Immigration Agent-General to the Agent in India, who "thereupon pays over the amount to the Protector for transmission to the heirs. "The amount remitted in 1890 was $3,826-75, representing the balances at "credit of 72 estates.

"48. In 1887 an Ordinance was passed, No. 10 of 1887, under section 3 of "which the disposal of the estates of indentured immigrants dying intestate was "transferred from the Administrator-General to the Immigration Department. "The following is the section referred to;—'A Sub-Agent of Immigration

" 'shall collect and take possession of all the property of any indentured immi-
" 'grant who dies in his district, and with the sanction of the Immigration
" 'Agent-General deliver or pay the same to any person who establishes a right
" 'to it, or in the absence of any such person, shall convert the whole into money
" 'and pay over the amount realised to the Colonial Receiver-General to be
" 'remitted to the persons, in India or elsewhere, who may be entitled to the
" 'same.'

"49. In 1890 twenty-three estates were dealt with by the Sub-Agents " under this ordinance, the amount realized having been $503-91."

Further particulars on this subject, as well as on the manner in which property is realised, fees, etc., will be found in the Administrator-General's Ordinance of 1887, copy of which is annexed.

No fixed sum is named as a limit to funeral expenses. The claim for the amount due has to be filed by the party who has furnished the funeral, and ranks as a preferent claim.

In connection with the subject of funeral expenses, no charge has ever been made by employers for the burial of their immigrant labourers, either indentured or unindentured.

There is no probate or succession duty.

---

28. WILLS.

The following are the fees charged at the Registrar's office in connection with wills:—

	$
Drawing and passing a will, codicil or other testamentary instrument, mutual or otherwise	6
Sealing up a will and drawing and passing the superscription thereon, and performing all necessary formalities, including the registering the act of superscription	4
Opening the envelope of a will, and drawing and passing the act of opening	4

Immigrants, however, seldom, if ever, have their wills drawn up at the Registrar's office.

Those residing on estates get a simple will made for them by the sick-nurse, or an overseer, free of charge, and those who live in the towns, villages and settlements, obtain the services of a schoolmaster, village lawyer, or of any person able to read and write. The charge in these cases would vary, village lawyers, of course, charging more than other persons; but the average would be about 96 cents.

After the death of the testator, the will has to be exhibited to the Administrator-General, and a fee of $1 has to be paid to that officer. It has then to be recorded at the Registrar's office, and a further fee of $7 or $8 has to be paid for recording it and obtaining a certified copy.

As many of the wills of immigrants were found to be informal on account of the ignorance of the person who had undertaken to write them, a form of will was drawn up at this office to be supplied to the managers of estates.

---

29. RETURN PASSAGE TO INDIA.

It will be seen by the figures given below that the total number of immigrants, including their childern born in the colony, who returned to India from 1870 to 1890, represented only 1·98 of the total East Indian population of the colony. The number of immigrants classed as "paupers" is also given, and includes lepers and inefficient, infirm, old, blind, maimed or otherwise permanently incapacitated immigrants. Cases are rare in which criminals or bad characters are given a passage as paupers, but a few of such instances have occurred. In one, the immigrant had been in the colony a very short time, but he proved to be such a turbulent and dangerous character that the manager of the estate to which he was indentured wrote to the Immigration Agent-General and asked him to cancel his indenture and send him back to India. This was accordingly done, the immigrant himself expressing a desire to be sent back.

In order to give an idea of the length of time immigrants who have returned to India resided in the colony, a table is given in which this information is supplied in regard to the following return ships:—*Wellesley* 1871, *Enmore* 1872, and the three ships which sailed for India last year. The ships that sailed in 1871 and 1872 have been selected in order that a comparison may be instituted between the length of residence in the colony of immigrants who returned to India before and after the stoppage of re-indenture. From the figures given in this table it will be seen that now a much larger number of immigrants leave the colony soon after they become entitled to a passage—that is, in their eleventh and twelfth year of residence—than was formerly the case.

Of the total number of immigrants who sailed for India from 1862 to 1890, 609 paid their passages. Children born in the colony are entitled to a passage, provided they go with their parents. In one of the tables at foot of these remarks a statement is given of the number of such children who returned to India from 1871 to 1890, the total being 5,580. This table could have been extended back to the years previous to 1871; but the period given will be sufficient to show the practice in this respect. The proportion of Creole children to the total number embarked from 1871 to 1890 was 21·77. Orphan children are also allowed a free passage when they have been adopted by other immigrants and go with their guardians.

The amounts payable for warm clothing are as follows:—

	$ c.
For an adult	5 0
„ a child of one year and under ten years ...	3 0
„ an infant	1 50

The total amount of money taken to India by immigrants who returned to their country since 1854 was $2,314,572-47, equal to £482,202-12.

At a Session of the Combined Court, held on the 28th November 1888, Mr. Gilzean, Financial Representative for Essequebo, moved the following Resolution:—

"Whereas it is desirable that the colony should not be drained of a valuable "number of its inhabitants and of its wealth, as it is by the present system of "back passages to East Indian immigrants:

"Be it resolved—That the Lieutenant-Governor is requested to name a "Committee of the Immigration Agent and two non-official members of this "Court, with power to add to their number, to take the opinions of persons "interested in the subject and to report to this Court, submitting a scheme for "the removal of the above-named evil."

A Committee was accordingly appointed, and after giving the subject full consideration, the Committee came to the conclusion that it was not either desirable or necessary that there should be any alteration in the terms as to back passage under which immigrants had hitherto been introduced into the colony. The following is a copy of the Report of the Committee:—

To His Excellency the Right Honourable Viscount Gormanston, K.C.M.G., Governor and Commander-in-Chief in and over the Colony of British Guiana, Vice-Admiral and Ordinary of the same, and to the Honourable the Court of Policy with the Financial Representatives of the said Colony in Combined Court assembled.

We, the Committee appointed to enquire into the present system of back passages to East Indian immigrants, respectfully beg to submit the following report:—

1. That a return passage to India is one of the stipulations under which immigration has been permitted by the Indian Government, and that it is one which has always been regarded as an indispensable part of the contract.

2. That after due consideration and enquiry we have formed the opinion that it is neither necessary nor desirable that any alteration should be made in the terms as to back passage under which immigrants have hitherto been introduced into the colony, beyond inserting, as a condition of obtaining such passage, that each immigrant should have fulfilled his contract of service under indenture, and that the right to a back passage should be forfeited by desertion or imprisonment for a period or periods exceeding six months during the term of indenture.

3. In order to explain the object of the condition suggested in the foregoing paragraph, your Committee would give, as an example, the case of an immigrant who in the early part of the period of his indenture is guilty of an offence for which he is sentenced to a lengthened term of penal servitude. This immigrant on the termination of his imprisonment, provided the term of his indenture has expired and his employer has no desire to have him back again on the estate to complete his service, would be entitled to receive a certificate of exemption from labour, and, under the existing law, at the expiration of ten years from the date of his arrival in the colony, could claim a free return passage to India. In such a case, your Committee submit that the right to free return passage could not be regarded as deserved, for the immigrant might have passed the greater part of the ten years in penal servitude.

4. This suggestion appears to be so just and reasonable, that Your Committee are of opinion that its introduction would not be objected to by the Indian Government. It may be mentioned that this was one of the conditions under which the right of return passage was given to the Chinese who came to this colony.

5. With regard to the suggestion made in the course of the discussion in the Combined Court, that the immigrants at the close of their indentures should be offered money payments in commutation of their claims to a return passage, your Committee are of opinion that, unless made retrospective, such an arrangement would cause discontent amongst the immigrants who have been ten years and upwards in the colony: while, on the other hand, if made retrospective, it would cost the colony so large a sum of money as to render any such proposal entirely impracticable.

6. The statistics of the return ships show that the proportion of immigrants returning to India, as compared with the number introduced, is comparatively small, being about 19 per cent. If from this the number of Creoles be deducted, the percentage of immigrants actually introduced into the colony, and who have returned to India, is only about 15 per cent.

7. The statistics further show that the percentage of immigrants who have returned, including Creoles, on the estimated total East Indian population of the colony, does not amount to 2 per cent.

8. It must also be borne in mind that amongst the immigrants returning to India there is always a proportion of invalids and others who, from age or infirmity, are unfitted for agricultural labour, or for any other occupation which would enable them to earn a livelihood.

9. Your Committee are also of opinion that the return of a certain number of immigrants who have acquired sufficient means to settle themselves comfortably in India, has greatly tended to assist in developing the immigration system, by familiarizing the people of India with this colony, and opening up to them prospects of improving their condition to an extent and in a manner unattainable in their own country, while the recruiting operations have been greatly facilitated by the number of immigrants who have come back to the colony with their relatives and friends.

10. Your Committee being unable to recommend a money payment in commutation of return passage, the question arises as to whether there is any alternative measure which could be proposed as likely to tend to reduce the number of applications for return passage. On this point your Committee consider that the only practicable means which they feel able to suggest for attaining this object is to encourage permanent settlement by increasing the facilities for the acquisition of land in suitable places and on easy terms of purchase. This we consider perferable to the suggestion so frequently made, as free grants of land in lieu of back passage.

11. On the question of reducing the term of indenture from five to two or three years, your Committee are strongly of opinion that any such change would be most injudicious and prejudical to the interests of the immigrants, and at the same time unfair to the employers. It must be obvious that the result of such a measure would be to turn adrift on the colony a number of immigrants who have neither been fully acclimatised nor thoroughly trained to labour, and who, when left to their own resources, would gradually become a burden on the public institutions of the colony. Under such a system the employers also would be prejudiced by not receiving in labour an equivalent

for the expense incurred in connection with the introduction and subsequent care of the immigrants allotted to them.

All of which is respectfully submitted to the wisdom and decision of Your Excellency and Honourable Court.

A. H. ALEXANDER.
B. HOWELL JONES.
D. C. CAMERON.
THOS. H. GLENNIE.
J. ERNEST TINNE.

Georgetown, 19th March 1889.

The question as to the discontinuance of back passage was not, however, definitely settled by the above report, for in 1890 there was a long correspondence on the subject between this Government, the Secretary of State for the Colonies, and the Indian Government, with the result that the Secretary of State, in a despatch dated the 14th April 1891, stated that the Government of India would defer the expression of an opinion on the question until after the visit to the West Indies of the Protector of Immigrants at Calcutta, who had been instructed to make this question a special subject of consideration and enquiry.

The principal arguments advanced by those who favour the continuance of the granting of return passages are:—

1st.—That the return to India each year of a number of immigrants, carrying with them a large amount of money and jewellery, benefits the colony by creating a favourable impression in India as to the advantages which it affords to immigrants, thereby tending to develope the immigration system;

2nd.—That any alteration in the terms of the engagement entered into in this respect might have a prejudicial effect on emigration from India, a result which would be disastrous to the colony, where labour is so much required; and

3rd.—That the number of immigrants returning to India forms such a small proportion of the total Indian population of the colony (about two per cent.), that the loss to the labour market is small compared with the advantages set forth above.

On the other hand, those who are opposed to a continuance of the system base their objections on the following grounds:—

1st.—That the exodus each year of so many immigrants is not only a drain on the labour market, but also takes away from the colony large sums of money which would otherwise be invested here;

2nd.—That the immigrants have been introduced at a great cost, and that their departure at a time when they have become most useful as taxpayers and labourers is detrimental to the interests of the colony;

3rd.—That a return to India is not an advantage to the immigrants, but rather the reverse, and that they are in a much better position in every way here than they are in their own country; and

4th.—That the immigration system is now so well established that it does not require to be bolstered up by the return to India of well-to-do or wealthy immigrants.

With regard to the possibility of collecting a portion of the expenses of the return passage from coolies hereafter to be introduced, and the question as to whether, if $\frac{1}{5}$ or $\frac{1}{6}$ of the expenses had to be deposited at the time of application, this would deter from going to India those immigrants who only go because they are entitled to claim a return passage, and not because of any keen desire to return to their native country, there can be no doubt that any regulation as to payment of part of the expenses would reduce considerably the number of applications. At the same time it would not keep back those immigrants whose means would admit of their paying the required amount. If, therefore, the total abolition of the system of back passage cannot be approved by the Indian Government, some such arrangement as the above, viz., the payment by the immigrant of part of the expenses, would be a decided benefit to the colony, and might, perhaps, ultimately lead to the right to back passage being excluded from the terms of the contract.

30. PROPORTION OF IMMIGRANTS WHO HAVE RETURNED TO INDIA TO TOTAL IMMIGRANT POPULATION, &c.

Statement showing the percentage of those immigrants who returned to India each year, to those imported and to the total East Indian population of the colony.

Year.	1	2	3	Percentage of column 1 on column 2.	Percentage of column 1 on column 3.
	Number who returned to India.	Number introduced.	Total East Indian population.		
1870 ...	407	4,943	49,052	8·23	·81
1871 ...	423	2,706	50,661	15·63	·83
1872 ...	987	3,556	52,693	27·76	1·87
1873 ...	905	7,512	59,012	12·05	1·53
1874 ...	468	6,009	64,227	7·79	·74
1875 ...	839	4,346	67,005	19·30	1·25
1876 ...	461	2,932	68,689	15·72	·67
1877 ...	1,052	3,886	70,499	27·07	1·49
1878 ...	1,054	9,101	78,214	11·58	1·35
1879 ...	1,122	6,050	83,563	18·54	1·34
1880 ...	1,583	4,377	86,207	36·16	1·83
1881 ...	1,415	3,955	87,988	35·77	1·61
1882 ...	1,109	3,165	89,789	35·04	1·24
1883 ...	1,495	2,497	90,123	59·87	1·66
1884 ...	1,554	4,705	92,678	33·03	1·68
1885 ...	1,761	6,565	97,646	26·82	1·80
1886 ...	1,889	3,511	100,281	53·80	1·88
1887 ...	1,420	4,356	102,746	32·60	1·38
1888 ...	1,938	2,892	103,849	67·07	1·86
1889 ...	2,042	3,510	106,236	58·18	1·92
1890 ...	2,125	4,575	107,424	46·45	1·98

31. NUMBER OF IMMIGRANTS WHO PAID FOR THEIR PASSAGE TO INDIA.

The following return shows the number of immigrants who returned to India and paid their own passages from 1862 to 1890:—

Year.	Men.	Women.	Boys.	Girls.	Total.
1862 ...	71	14	...	2	87
1864 ...	39	9	...	3	51
1865 ...	16	12	...	...	28
1867 ...	5	9	...	...	14
1876 ...	6	...	...	...	6
1877 ...	17	8	...	1	26
1878 ...	30	8	2	3	43
1879 ...	28	6	1	...	35
1880 ...	9	2	...	...	11
1881 ...	18	4	2	...	24
1882 ...	5	3	2	....	10
1883 ...	66	13	4	2	85
1884 ...	5	...	1	...	6
1885 ...	38	4	1	1	44
1886 ...	29	2	...	1	32
1887 ...	27	4	...	...	31
1888 ...	49	6	3	...	58
1889 ...	5	...	...	...	5
1890 ...	9	3	1	...	13
	472	107	17	13	609

32. NUMBER OF IMMIGRANTS WHO RETURNED TO INDIA DURING THE TEN YEARS 1880 TO 1889, AND WHOSE SAVINGS WOULD HAVE ENABLED THEM TO PAY FOR THEIR PASSAGES.

Season.	Number of return emigrants who had enough to pay passage at Rs. 150.	Number who had enough to pay passages and Rs. 100.	Number who had enough to pay passages and Rs. 200.	Number who had enough to pay passages and Rs. 300.	Number who had enough to pay passages and Rs. 400.	Number who had enough to pay passages and Rs. 500.	Number who had enough to pay passages and Rs. 1,000.	Number who had enough to pay passages and Rs. 2,000.	Number who had enough to pay passages and Rs. 3,000.	Number who had enough to pay passages and Rs. 4,000.	Number who had enough to pay passages and Rs. 5,000 and upwards.	Total number.
1880-81	213	52	54	71	22	48	16	2	...	...	...	478
1881-82	164	89	38	39	19	44	31	4	1	...	2	431
1882-83	98	96	46	45	26	17	8	...	1	2	17	356
1883-84	122	130	60	68	30	77	37	19	3	1	2	549
1884-85	158	169	76	62	35	74	76	6	3	1	...	660
1885-86	113	111	41	61	31	61	20	4	...	...	1	443
1886-87	142	126	51	46	26	41	9	5	4	...	...	450
1887-88	124	121	40	18	43	37	15	2	...	1	1	402
1888-89	113	108	47	21	35	42	17	3	...	...	1	387
1889-90	251	118	47	35	34	53	21	5	1	...	1	566
Total ...	1,498	1,120	500	466	301	494	250	50	13	5	25	4,722

Number of return emigrants who had savings less than Rs. 150	10,399
Paupers and invalids who were sent back free of expense	1,085
Total number of return emigrants from seasons 1880-81 to 1889-90	16,206

The above table was drawn up by Mr. Mitchell, Emigration Agent at Calcutta, and was annexed to a letter No. 237, dated the 17th June 1890, addressed by him to the Under-Secretary of State, in reply to a communication directing him to furnish his views on the proposal to discontinue the offer of return passages.

The following is an extract from Mr. Mitchell's letter:—

"6. The Indian emigrant population of British Guiana is now about the "same as that of Mauritius when return passages at the expense of that colony "were discontinued in 1852.

"7. It is true British Guiana is further away, but the greater distance is "more than counterbalanced by the advantages, the vastly superior accom- "modation provided both in sickness and in health, and the rate of wages, "which is about double that of Mauritius; so that although the cost of a return "passage is nearly twice as great, the emigrant should be sooner in a position "to meet the extra expenditure from his savings if he desire to return.

"8. From the annexed tabular statement it will be observed that of 16,206 "emigrants who returned during the past ten years, 4,722 were able to pay "their passages, while 3,224 of them had savings in excess of that amount "(Rs. 150), varying from one hundred to five thousand rupees. In addition "1,085 were sent home at the colony's expense either as invalids or ineffectives.

"9. It is my settled conviction that a free return passage to his native "land is anything but a boon to the emigrant. The climate tells severely on "those who have been ten or fifteen years absent in more temperate regions, "the food is far inferior and disagrees with them, and the havoc which "cholera and other diseases make among the young who have been born in the "colony is simply appalling. Besides, medical attendance, medicines and "medical comforts are rarely available in villages situated at a distance from "the centres of population. They have no longer the estates' hospital as a "refuge in time of illness. The fact is they have been quite spoilt by residence "in British Guiana for the life which lies before them in India, especially "when their means fail."

"10. I am satisfied the majority of return emigrants would be only "too thankful to make British Guiana their home permanently, after a limited "experience of the very doubtful pleasures of home life in India.

"11. Not long ago an old emigrant wrote to me from prison, his sole "offence being the possession of five hundred rupees earned in British Guiana, "a sum which it was supposed impossible a man of his position could have "come by honestly in India. He was subsequently liberated on my appeal to "the Magistrate, the number of the notes being furnished by me from the Bank "of Bengal—rather a startling experience after a residence of fifteen years in "Demerara under his own vine and fig, no one daring to make him afraid.

"12. More than half of those who wish to return to the colony have to be "rejected as ineligible. They look so starved and miserable that no Surgeon "will pass them. To many of them the refusal is simply their death warrant, "and it grieves me to the quick to have to do so.

"13. A cripple is in a different position; his missing or distorted limb is a "sure source of income, and he is certain of earning his livelihood, and shortly "sits up at the gate of some temple or musjid, dependant on his creed.

"14. There is nothing apparently in the Act or Rules repugnant to "the extension to British Guiana of the privilege Mauritius has enjoyed these "38 years, so that there can be no reasonable objection on the part of the "Indian authorities.

"15. The crucial point is the new departure, attempting to recruit "emigrants without the offer of repatriation within a limited time. How far "this would act as a bar in the case of British Guiana experience alone can "show. It does not appear materially to have affected the flow of emigration to "Mauritius. At the same time it would, I think, be prudent to postpone the "new departure to a season, like the last, for instance, when want would no "doubt overcome any hesitation to tempt the unknown without the opportunity "of returning home except at their own charges. The requisition also from "the colony is too large to face with so material a change of front.

"16. It would be well to endeavour to enlist the co-operation of the "Trinidad Government in the proposed movement; otherwise invidious com-"parisons might be drawn between the neighbouring colonies, which would "greatly hinder the successful issue of the scheme."

33. MONEY AND JEWELLERY TAKEN TO INDIA BY RETURN IMMIGRANTS.

Statement showing money and jewellery taken to India by return immigrants, or deposited for payment to them on arrival.

Year.	Money.		Value of jewellery.	
	$	c.	$	
1854 ..	21,312	00		
1856 ...	20,543	16		
1857 ...	52,622	71		
1858 ...	27,386	63		
1859	72,081	35		
1862 ...	45,058	00		
1864 ...	60,356	06		
1865 ...	53,969	00		
1867 ...	49,143	00		
1869 ...	53,388	00		
1870 ...	45,128	95		
1871 ...	50,136	89		
1872 ...	122,685	14		
1873 ...	97,272	79		
1874 ..	47,774	00		
1875 ...	68,570	65	2,460	
1876 ..	28,305	08	1,500	
1877 ...	92,205	80	4,800	
1878 ...	80,893	30	16,800	
1879 ...	85,599	88	11,000	
1880	100,484	42	24,000	
1881 ...	98,082	73	24,500	
1882 ...	88,289	92	20,240	
1883 ...	152,980	80	30,858	
1884 ...	125,694	90	27,000	
1885 ...	114,708	93	23,000	
1886 ...	92,275	50	19,500	
1887 ...	77,613	57	15,000	
1888 ...	78,974	24	16,100	
1889 ...	93,424	07	18,700	
1890 ...	117,611	00	25,000	
	2,314,572	47	280,458	= £540,631

34. NUMBER OF IMMIGRANTS WHO RETURNED TO INDIA AS PAUPERS.

The following statement shows the number of immigrants returned to India as paupers, including criminals, bad characters, habitual idlers, inefficient, infirm, old, blind, lepers, maimed or otherwise permanently incapacitated:—

Year.	Men.	Women.	Boys.	Girls.	Total.
1864 ...	6	2	...	...	8
1865 ...	7	3	...	...	10
1867 ...	1	1	...	...	2
1871 ...	15	2	...	...	17
1873 ...	61	9	...	...	70
1874 ...	40	6	...	...	46
1875 ...	123	29	...	...	152
1876 ...	52	15	1	1	69
1877 ...	73	10	2	...	85
1878 ...	71	25	1	1	98
1879 ...	48	6	3	...	57
1880 ...	74	13	3	...	90
1881 ...	65	9	1	1	76
1882 ...	29	3	...	...	32
1883 ...	28	8	...	2	38
1884 ...	36	6	2	1	45
1885 ...	70	17	4	3	94
1886 ...	106	25	3	2	136
1887 ...	64	11	1	3	79
1888 ...	221	30	12	3	266
1889 ...	151	47	15	11	224
1890 ...	85	32	8	7	123
	1,426	300	56	35	1,817

35. DURATION OF RESIDENCE IN THE COLONY OF RETURN IMMIGRANTS.

Return showing the duration of residence in the colony of the immigrants who returned to India in the "Wellesley," 1871, the "Enmore," 1872, and the three ships which sailed during the year 1890.

Ship.	Year.	44 years.	42 years.	38 years.	37 years.	36 years.	35 years.	33 years.	31 years.	30 years.	29 years.	28 years.	27 years.	26 years.	25 years.	24 years.	23 years.	22 years.
"Wellesley" ...	1871	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	3	...
"Enmore" ...	1872	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	10	10	...	...
"Avon" ...	1890	...	1	...	..	...	...	...	1	2	...	3	...	3	3	3	4	3
"Moy" ...	1890	2	...	1	...	...	1	2	2	5	7	5	1	3	1	4	8	2
"Danube" ...	1890	...	1	...	2	3	...	..	...	2	...	3	1	...	2	5	4	3

Ship.	21 years.	20 years.	19 years.	18 years.	17 years.	16 years.	15 years.	14 years.	13 years.	12 years.	11 years.	10 years.	Between ten and five.	Under five.	Casuals.	Born in the colony.
"Wellesley" ..	...	...	11	11	11	23	7	11	7	38	84	119	10	4	...	82
"Enmore" ...	...	6	7	19	9	9	25	7	45	85	97	94	15	15	...	126
"Avon" ...	8	13	4	16	13	22	21	11	53	125	217	8	18	...	3	155
"Moy" ...	7	11	7	6	11	16	24	19	45	168	107	24	24	29	4	175
"Danube" ...	15	16	5	11	36	18	12	21	35	153	73	70	15	23	2	158

36. *Creoles of Indian parentage who have left the colony for India in the return ships during the twenty years* 1871 *to* 1890.

Year.	Ship.	Souls embarked.	Total for the year.	Number of Creoles.
1871	"Wellesley" ...	423	423	82
1872	"Enmore" ...	581		
	"Rohilla" ...	406	987	181
1873	"Rohilla" ...	478		
	"Ailsa" ...	427	905	158
1874	"Rohilla" ...	468	468	79
1875	"Rohilla" ...	439		
	"St. Kilda" ...	398	837	152
1876	"Rohilla" ...	461	461	116
1877	"Rohilla" ...	495		
	"Aldergrove" ...	555	1,050	260
1878	"Lightning" ...	568		
	"Silhet" ...	486	1,054	213
1879	"Lightning" ...	566		
	"Malabar" ...	556	1,122	227
1880	"Howrah" ...	413		
	"Newcastle" ...	561		
	"Lightning" ...	608	1,582	336
1881	"Newcastle" ...	510		
	"Berar" ...	467		
	"Poona" ...	439	1,416	355
1882	"North" ...	553		
	"Bayard" ...	556	1,109	253
1883	"Ganges" ...	578		
	"Erato" ...	529		
	"Jumna" ...	388	1,495	293
1884	"Ganges" ...	554		
	"Nagpur" ...	549		
	"Ellora" ...	451	1,554	338
1885	"Grecian" ...	579		
	"Moy" ...	591		
	"Boyne" ...	590	1,760	389
1886	"Erne" ...	696		
	"Moy" ...	714		
	"Bengollyun" ...	479	1,889	434
1887	"Hereford" ...	666		
	"Elbe" ...	754	1,420	308
1888	"Ganges" ...	635		
	"British Peer" ...	657		
	"Hereford" ...	646	1,938	417
1889	"Erne" ...	708		
	"Ganges" ...	659		
	"Allanshaw" ...	675	2,042	495
1890	"Avon" ...	715		
	"Moy" ...	721		
	"Danube" ...	689	2,125	494
		25,637	25,637	5,580

37. PASSPORTS.

Number of immigrants who received passports during the last 20 years, viz., from 1871 to 1890, both inclusive.

Year.	Trinidad.		Surinam.		Grenada.	Barbadoes.		St. Eustatius.	Jamaica.		Lisbon.	Cayenne.		United States.	Tobago.	England.		British Honduras.	St. Lucia.		St. Vincent.		Nickerie.		Martinique.		Madeira.		Panama.	Mauritius.	China.	Antigua.
	Imgts.	Casuals.	Imgts.	Casuals.	Imgts.	Imgts.	Casuals.	Imgts.	Imgts.	Casuals.	Imgts.	Imgts.	Casuals.	Imgts.	Imgts.	Imgts.	Casuals.	Imgts.	Imgts.	Imgts.	Casuals.	Imgts.	Casuals.	Imgts.	Casuals.	Imgts.	Casuals.	Imgts.	Imgts.	Imgts.	Imgts.	Imgts.
1871						1																										
1872		2				1																										
1873	1	6				1																										
1874	5	1	2			1		1																								
1875	24	4		1		2			1	6																						
1876	20	25	5	1		1					5		1	1	1																	
1877	20	11	18			4	1						1			2																
1878	23	5		1		2						1	4				1	1			2		1									
1879	27	33	8	7	1	1									2	7							2	6	1							
1880	54	37	15	5	1				5	1			1			1					9	5	1		5							
1881	67	24		1						1		14				1						3	2			1	1					
1882	30	2	2	1		3										1			10													
1883	26	5	10	2		1	1					1	1			2			4	1		5										
1884	28	5	11	1					1	1		1										7										
1885	37	2	16	1		3						4								1		13	1									
1886	24		15			2						1				1			1			4	1									
1887	20		101	2								1										6		17								
1888	21	1	14			1						2								4		11							1			
1889	58	1	22			6			3			3							22			5							1	1		
1890	46		12			3			1			1							14			7										
Total ...	531	164	251	23	2	33	2	1	11	9	5	29	8	1	3	15	1	1	51	6	11	68	12	18	5	1	1	2	1	1		

Summary.

Number of immigrants	who	received	passports	for the first time	...	940
"	"	"	"	"	"	more than once	...	92
"	"	casuals	"	"	"	for the first time	...	222
"	"	"	"	"	"	more than once	...	13

Children born in the colony, and who went away with their parents, are not included, passports not being issued to such children. Their names are entered on the passports of their parents.

Of those immigrants who received passports, 307 forfeited their right to a free passage back to India, as they had not completed a continuous residence of ten years in the colony.

38. DESERTION.

The following table shows the number of desertions among indentured immigrants each year from 1881 to 1890, both inclusive, giving an average of 517 per annum :—

1881.	1882.	1883.	1884.	1885.	1886.	1887.	1888.	1889.	1890.
520	487	557	519	510	444	588	563	472	514

There are certain immigrants who are confirmed and incorrigible deserters, having left the estates to which they are or were under indenture several times. These, of course, help to swell the number of desertions recorded.

An immigrant becomes a deserter when he has been absent for seven days from his plantation without having obtained leave from his employer. Within fourteen days after the expiration of the seven days' absence, the employer is required to prefer a charge against him before the Magistrate, and he is liable to a penalty for failing to do so, the penalty being a fine not exceeding $24, and in addition an absolute accumulating fine of 24 cents for every day of default.

When an employer prefers a charge against an immigrant for desertion, a warrant is issued for his apprehension, and a copy of this warrant is forwarded by the Magistrate to the Inspector-General of Police, who then furnishes the Immigration Agent-General with a certified copy thereof. In addition to this, the names and particulars of all deserters are published in the *Police Gazette*. A few deserters succeed in evading arrest for years. Not long ago a man came to this office to apply for a certificate of exemption from labour, and on referring to the registers it was found that he had been fifteen years in the colony, and that he had deserted from the estate to which he was indentured after having served for only one year. The police were, of course, notified and he was arrested on a warrant which had been fourteen years in their hands.

In the majority of cases, however, deserters are arrested within a few months after their leaving the estates. It often occurs that they come to the Immigration Office in a sickly or debilitated condition, the result of wandering about without any means of earning a living, in order to apply for admission to the Public Hospital. They are at once sent to the hospital, and the warrant is put in force against them on their discharge. The chief way in which deserters are discovered is by the police exercising their power of stopping any immigrant whom they may have cause to suspect of being absent from his plantation without leave, and calling on him to produce a pass or a certificate of exemption from labour.

In 1884, 1885, 1886, and 1887 several new immigrants were deluded by some designing old coolies into a belief that they could reach Calcutta by an overland route through the interior of the colony, and they accordingly left the estate with that object. The following are extracts from the Annual Reports referring to these cases:—

1884.—"The number of indentured immigrants who deserted during the "year was 519. This shows a decrease of 38 on the previous year. In "connection with this subject I may here give the following extract from the "Annual Report of Mr. Gladwin, the Sub-Agent of the Essequebo district:— "On several occasions small parties of new coolies deserted from plantation "Aurora, and carrying with them a small quantity of provisions went into "the forests and, of course, lost themselves. All these people, except one, "after suffering great privations returned to the estate. Some had been "picked up by the aborigines, others after long wandering got into the "neighbourhood of a settlement and were brought back. These people all told "the same story, namely, that they had been informed that after a few days' "journey through the forest they would arrive at a mountain, on the farther "side of which a road was to be found leading to Calcutta. Very remarkably, "none of them would tell by whom this absurd story had been promulgated. "At length it was ascertained that one Lall Sing, on each occasion of a

"number of these people becoming deserters, had been absent a few days, and "this led to the discovery that he had gone away with them, but returned alone "within the week. It was at length established by evidence that Lall Sing "had taken money from the men to guide them through the forest, and that "after travelling with them a certain distance he had slipped away and left "them. For this offence Lall Sing was prosecuted and on conviction fined in "the maximum penalty of $24 or two months' imprisonment, the Magistrate "expressing his regret that he had no power to punish him more severely. It "is almost certain that the man who still remains absent perished in the forest."

1885.—"During the year, 427 men and 83 women deserted from the "estates to which they were indentured. This is a slight decrease in comparison "with the number of deserters in 1884. In my report for 1884, I mentioned "that on several occasions parties of immigrants had deserted from an estate "in Essequebo, having been deluded into the belief that after travelling through "the forest they would find a road leading to Calcutta. Cases of a similar "nature, I regret to say, also occurred last year.

"In May, five immigrants indentured to plantation Chateau Margot were "induced by a man named Thakur to leave the estate, by the representation "that he knew of a road by which they could reach Calcutta. After wander-"ing in the bush for a few days, they were found by some people who had "been sent in search of them, and brought back to the estate. They were then "charged before the Magistrate as deserters, but the case was not pressed by "their employer, and they were accordingly merely reprimanded.

"Another such instance occurred in June last, when five immigrants inden-"tured to Bel Air, under the influence of an immigrant named Hunsraj, who "subsequently deserted them, left that estate, and some days after were found "by the Ranger of the Lamaha Canal up the Hoorabia Creek, and were brought "to town. They had suffered great privations from exposure and want of "food, and when discovered were in a very pitiable condition.

"This experience, however, did not prevent another similar expedition in "September last, on the part of one of these same men and eight others from an "adjoining estate, Turkeyen. Information was given by the overseer of the "Lamaha Canal that some immigrants had been seen wandering in the bush, "and a relief party was consequently despatched by orders of Your Excellency, "consisting of Mr. Lennox of this Department and Mr. Menzies, the Overseer "of the Lamaha Canal, with the necessary number of Indian guides and porters. "After following the track of the immigrants for twelve days, the search had to "be abandoned, as an extensive fire, which was raging in the savannah, "prevented further progress. Eventually, however, all these immigrants found "their way to settlements on the Demerara and Berbice rivers, and were safely "returned to their estates. It is to be hoped that the experience of these men, "and the privations and sufferings they endured in their wanderings through "the forests and savannahs, will prevent others from being led away by such "foolish representations."

1886.—"In my report for 1885, I had occasion to draw attention to three "instances in which immigrants had been duped into the belief that they could "reach India by an overland route, and had been induced by these representations "to desert from their estates and wander away into the bush. Another similar "incident occurred in 1886, when twelve immigrants who arrived in the ship "*Foyle* on the 4th November 1886, and were indentured to plantation Green-"field, wandered away from that estate within a month after their arrival, while "still in the receipt of rations, at the instigation of some old immigrants from a "neighbouring plantation. Four went as far as Nonpareil, which they reached "the second day, and the remaining eight were found four days afterwards at "plantation Content, Mahaicony, a distance of about twelve miles from Green-"field."

1887.—"I have again to record instances in which immigrants were "induced to leave their estates by representations made to them that they could "reach India by an overland route. In some cases disastrous results to their "health followed from the exposure and privations to which they were subjected, "and the mortality on one estate was greatly increased in consequence. Full "enquiries were made in each case, in order to ascertain whether they "had any reason to be dissatisfied with their treatment on the estate, but no

"other cause could be arrived at, beyond that already given on similar pre-
"vious occasions."

In connexion with the subject of desertion it may be of interest to give the history of an immigrant named Luchmun, who came to this colony as a return of Jamaica in the ship *Silhet*, 1879, and was allotted to plantation Goedverwagting. He deserted on the 21st December 1880, and was arrested on the 8th September 1882. On the 10th June 1883 he was charged and convicted before the Police Magistrate, Georgetown, with having attempted to quit the colony without a passport. In 1884 he obtained a passport, as no claim was made against him by his employer, and sailed for India in the return ship *Ganges*.

In 1885 he came back to the colony in the ship *Allanshaw*, and was allotted to Greenfield. In April 1886 he deserted, and some months afterwards the manager received a letter from him from England, stating that he had obtained a passage from Demerara as a lascar, and that he was about to proceed to Calcutta.

In 1887 he again came back to the colony in the ship *Rhine*, under the assumed name of Debidin, and was described as a return of Natal. He was not recognised at the depôt, and was accordingly allotted to plantation Albion, Berbice. It happened that the Acting Sub-Agent in Berbice, Mr. Crawford, had been acting as Sub-Agent on the East Coast when Luchmun was at Greenfield, and when he visited Albion for the purpose of inspecting the newly-arrived allotment, he at once recognised him and reported the matter to the Immigration Agent-General. Information was given to the Inspector-General, but when a constable went to Albion to arrest Luchmun, it was found that he had absconded. He was subsequently arrested at No. 63 Corentyne Coast, and it is probable that he had gone in that direction with the hope of being able to cross over to Nickerie. After the usual proceedings before the Magistrate, Luchmun was taken back to Greenfield. He deserted again in May 1888, and has not been seen or heard of since.

---

39. ABSENCE FROM WORK.

In looking through the pay-lists of the different estates, it will be seen that the letter "a," which represents "absent," occurs more frequently than is desirable. The attention of the attorneys and managers has been constantly drawn to this matter, and they have been urged to use every endeavour to induce the immigrants to be more regular in their attendance at work.

The following circular was addressed to all the employers on this subject on the 1st of July 1889:—

IMMIGRATION DEPARTMENT,
1*st July* 1889.

No. $\frac{1466.}{1160}$

SIR,

With reference to the letters which I have from time to time addressed to you, during the past half-year, in regard to the earnings of the indentured immigrants on estates under your charge, the chief object I have had in view has been to draw attention to the absolute necessity of every care being taken for the exercise of proper supervision over the immigrants, in order that they may be instructed in plantation work, and be trained, especially in the early stages of their indenture, to habits of industry.

2. A neglect of such supervision must in many cases lead to their becoming not only useless to themselves and to their employers, but also to their deteriorating in health, and ultimately becoming a burden on the colony.

3. In reply to my enquiries, it has been frequently advanced that the immigrants had absented themselves from work, and that they were consequently only paid for the work performed by them. The question then naturally arises as to whether any proper effort was made, or any influence brought to bear on them, to induce more regular and steady labour; and

equally important is the question as to the manner in which they supported themselves when they worked for small amounts.

4. I do not wish the above observations to be regarded as suggesting a recourse to the Magistrates' Courts, which ought only to be necessary in very exceptional cases, for I consider that the proper management of an estate must be taken to include an effective system of supervision and control over the indentured labourers, and that the managers ought to be able to acquire sufficient influence over them by the exercise of tact and firmness, and by showing a personal and active interest in their welfare.

5. It must also be obvious that if continual absence from work is allowed, not only do the immigrants lose wages which they might otherwise earn, but their employers are deprived of the benefit which their indenture was intended to afford. Such a condition of things, besides throwing discredit on the immigration system, must also lead to an impression that the number of immigrants annually applied for is in excess of the actual requirements of the estates.

6. I trust that these remarks, emanating as they do from an earnest desire on my part to promote the interests both of the employer and the employed, will be met by you in the same spirit, and that I shall receive your co-operation in the direction indicated.

I have, &c.,

A. H. ALEXANDER,

Immigration Agent-General.

Every month when the wages returns are received from the Sub-Agents, special notice is taken of all cases in which immigrants have failed to be present at work the whole or at any rate the greater part of the week.

Under Ordinance 4 of 1876 absence from work is not an offence punishable before the Magistrate, but the law provides (sections 24 to 39) for the Sub-Agents dealing with such cases by prolongation of indenture. The managers, however, gradually discontinued sending in reports of absence to the Sub-Agents, and those provisions of the law ultimately ceased to be put in operation.

The following extracts from the reports of the Immigration Agent-General for the years 1880, 1881 and 1882 will afford further information on this subject:—

1880.—"I have stated that most of the employers have ceased to avail themselves of the provisions of Ordinance No. 4, 1876, sections 24 to 39, which regulate the mode of procedure when an immigrant under indenture has been absent from work without lawful excuse. Various reasons may be assigned to explain this disregard and indifference to a part of the ordinance, which enables employers to recover the days lost by the unlawful absence from work of their indentured labourers. The chief cause has, I think, been the great labour and loss of time occasioned by the cumbersome and almost impracticable character of some of the provisions of the ordinance. Added to this, there is a growing belief that, as a deterrent against idleness, the ordinance possesses little or no efficacy. There is also a disinclination to harass good labourers for occasional absence, and an indifference as to the prolongation of the indentures of idlers. The Sub-Immigration Agent of No. 1 District, in a report dated the 2nd May last, stated as follows:—'When I assumed charge of this district, 'in November 1878, from Mr. J. F. Trotter, I found there were only nine 'estates which kept absentee returns. At the present moment there is not 'one, they having gradually given it up, as they find it does not make an idle 'man work any better, and it gives an infinite amount of trouble to the 'overseers and book-keepers keeping up the records.' The reports from other districts are to the same effect.

"The object of the Legislature in introducing this system of compensation for loss of time and labour was, 1*st*, to check imprisonment for offences against the labour laws; 2*nd*, to enforce the due fulfilment on the part of the immigrants of their contracts of five years' service; and 3*rd*, to endeavour, by the prospect of prolonged indenture and consciousness that every day spent in idleness would add to the term of service, to render the immigrants more diligent and industrious. The first object has to a considerable extent been attained, the number of prosecutions before the Magistrates having been very

"much reduced since Ordinance No. 4 of 1876 came into operation, as is shown "by the following figures:—

Percentage of	informations, &c.,	to population	in 1874	... 37·46
Ditto	ditto	ditto	in 1875	... 30·32
Ditto	ditto	ditto	in 1876	... 30·21
Ditto	ditto	ditto	in 1877	... 18·49
Ditto	ditto	ditto	in 1878	... 18·54
Ditto	ditto	ditto	in 1879	... 15·03
Ditto	ditto	ditto	in 1880	... 17·

"The means of enforcing the fulfilment, on the part of the immigrants, of "their contracts of five years' service, are provided by ordinance; but, as already "stated, most of the employers have ceased to avail themselves of these pro- "visions. With reference to the influence of the ordinance on the immigrants, "the general opinion is that it is very slight, as, now that re-indenture no "longer exists, prolongation of indenture for a month or two, or even more, is "not of very great consequence to them.

"It is unquestionable that if the difficulties attending the working of this "part of the ordinance had been less, the results of four years' trial would have "been more satisfactory; and it is therefore very desirable that those clauses "which render it more or less impracticable should be amended and simplified. "On the 6th May 1877, the late Mr. Crosby addressed a circular to the Sub- "Immigration Agents in regard to the working of these sections of Ordinance "No. 4 of 1876, and he concluded as follows:—'The provisions of the Ordi- "'nance No. 4 of 1876, sections 35 to 43, necessarily, together with the records "'of imprisonment, will entail on the Sub-Immigration Agents, as well as on the "'staff of the Immigration Agent-General in the office in Georgetown, a very "'considerable amount of clerical labour. And I shall be obliged to the Sub- "'Immigration Agents to point out any way in which that clerical labour can "'be diminished without so important a matter as the legal prolongation of the "'indentures of immigrants for absence from work, desertions and imprison- "'ments, being subject to doubt and uncertainty.' The Sub-Immigration "Agents in answer to this circular, made several suggestions with a view to "lessen the amount of labour which a strict compliance with all the forms of "the ordinance would have involved, and they ultimately obtained permission "to adopt in practice the modifications submitted by them."

1881.—"Few employers take advantage of the provisions of Act IV of 1876, "and it has to a great extent become a dead-letter. The immigrants might be "summoned before the Magistrate to account for unlawful absence, who would "make the necessary order and communicate with the Immigration Office where "contracts were prolonged. This would not throw much extra work on these "officers, as it rarely happens that any attempt is made to extend contracts of "service. At present where the employer seeks to extend the immigrant's "contract on account of unlawful absence, with the Sub-Agent as arbitrator, "a bad impression is left on the mind of the immigrant, who looks on the "Sub-Agent as his protector, and cannot understand his agreeing to the "extension of a contract for lost days of which he himself has probably lost all "count. It appears undesirable that the Sub-Agents should assume magisterial "functions, as contemplated by the Act.

"On the other hand, where disputes occur on estates about an extent of "work to be performed and the equivalent in money earned, it is desirable that "the Sub-Agents should appear as umpires and, if possible, prevent recourse to "law courts. Besides, disputes about labour can rarely be satisfactorily "settled except by prompt decision on the spot; and it is out of the question "that Magistrates could be expected to repair at once to the scene of dispute "for purposes of arbitration.

"The delay consequent on organizing an enquiry and the expense attending "assessment as provided by Act VII of 1873, render the law almost inoperative; "so much time is lost that both employer and employed lose their patience, "if not their tempers."

1882.—"Extension of contract for unlawful absence has, to a considerable "extent, been abandoned; only five estates send in regular returns, and seven "others at uncertain intervals took advantage of the provisions of Act IV "of 1876."

When it is necessary to make an example of any immigrants who are frequently absent from work, the managers now bring them before the Magistrate on a charge of refusing or neglecting to begin or finish the work assigned.

40. HABITUAL IDLENESS.

Under Ordinance 4 of 1876, section 15, any male immigrant is deemed an habitual idler if he shall have been absent from work without lawful excuse on twenty-four days in any one month or in any two consecutive months, and is liable on conviction to be imprisoned for any term not exceeding three months. During the year 1890 there were 90 immigrants charged and convicted under this section of the ordinance. This number is small, as it gives an average of less than one conviction for each estate. Five of the immigrants referred to were convicted twice, and two of them three times.

There are many immigrants who are habitually idle, without, however, coming within the terms of the law as habitual idlers, and they are dealt with under section 17 of Ordinance 4 of 1876, by being charged with neglecting or refusing to begin the work assigned to them.

41. VAGRANCY.

Considering the large number of East Indian immigrants in the colony, and the fact that a certain number of them are disposed, both by the customs of their country and ingrained indolence, to wander about as professional beggars, there is comparatively little vagrancy amongst the coolies in this colony. Those who in consequence of chronic disease, debility or old age, find themselves unable to support themselves, come to the depôt and apply to be kept there, or to be sent to the Alms House, until they can be sent back to India. When they reach the depôt they are brought before the Medical Inspector for examination, in order that his opinion may be obtained as to whether they are permanently unfit for work, or merely suffering from temporary disability. If they are considered permanently unfit for work, and consequently unable to make a living, they are either kept and fed in depôt, or sent to the Alms House, according to the nature of the case. Should they be merely suffering from some remediable affection or from debility of a temporary character, they are fed in depôt, and if necessary treated as out-patients at the Public Hospital until they are sufficiently recovered to be discharged. There is, therefore, no cause or excuse for vagrancy, as the depôt is always open to real cases of destitution.

In outlying districts, such as Berbice, there are more cases of vagrancy than in other districts; but the Sub-Immigration Agent stationed in that county is always prepared to send to the depôt in Georgetown any destitute immigrants who may desire the assistance of the Department.

In spite, however, of the shelter and maintenance afforded by the depôt, there are a number of immigrants to be found in Georgetown, who hang about the rum shops, stores and Chinese opium dens, living by begging or, if well enough, by doing occasional odd jobs when they can obtain any.

The Commissioners of 1870 made a remark on this subject, which is equally applicable now, viz., "there are, of course, other wretched objects to be seen "in the streets, but not many in comparison with the population; and any "person acquainted with the beggars in India, would recognise the fraternity "in those he saw in Georgetown, and feel satisfied that the managers did not "lose good workmen when such immigrants left the estate. Beggars of the "same kind were likewise always to be seen on the estates, especially on "Saturdays."

The Vagrancy Act, No. 21 of 1856, provides the means of controlling vagrancy. Under section 1 of that Ordinance, "every person wandering or "loitering abroad in any road or street or public place, or intruding in any "private premises after being ordered to depart, and using any means or device "to induce the bestowal of alms upon him, or causing or procuring any other "person so to do," and "every person wandering abroad or lodging in or under "any verandah, gallery, out-house or building wholly or in part unoccupied, "or in cart, vehicle, boat or other receptacle, or in any *logie* or other

"plantation building, or on or under any wharf or *stelling*, or within any cane "field or provision ground, or on or in any dam or trench immediately adjoining "thereto, without leave of the owner, occupier or person in charge thereof, and "not having any visible means of subsistence, or not giving a good account of "himself," shall be deemed an idle and disorderly person, and shall be liable on the first conviction to imprisonment with or without hard labour not exceeding fourteen days, or to a penalty not exceeding ten dollars.

Under section 2 every person convicted a second time of being idle and disorderly, "shall be deemed a rogue and vagabond, and shall be liable on "conviction to imprisonment, with or without hard labour, not exceeding one "month, or to a penalty not exceeding twenty-four dollars."

Under section 3 "every person convicted a second time or more often of "being a rogue and vagabond shall be deemed to be an incorrigible rogue, and "shall be liable to imprisonment, with or without hard labour, not exceeding "four months, or to a penalty not exceeding fifty dollars, and if a male, to a "whipping not exceeding twenty-five lashes."

In addition to this, under section 4 every person convicted of being an incorrigible rogue may be required to give security for his good behaviour for one year after his discharge, and may in default be sentenced to a further imprisonment, with or without hard labour, not exceeding four months.

Every police officer is empowered to apprehend any person whom he shall see offending against this ordinance, and take him before the Stipendiary Justice of the Peace to be dealt with according to law.

It sometimes happens that vagrants brought before the Stipendiary Justice of the Peace are in such a condition as to be unfit to undergo imprisonment. To meet such cases, an Ordinance, No. 13 of 1876, was passed, entitled "The Infirm Vagrants Ordinance," under the provisions of which, if it should appear to the Stipendiary Justice of the Peace that the person charged before him with any offence under the Vagrancy Act is unable, from physical infirmity, to maintain himself, he may, instead of proceeding to hear and determine the charge, make an order that the person so charged shall be forthwith conveyed to the Alms House and there detained until he shall be discharged by his order given in writing. Such order is not given until the person has become capable of earning his livelihood, unless some friend or relative or other person interested in him is prepared to enter into a bond in the sum of twenty-four dollars that due provision shall be made for his future maintenance. The party entering into the bond has, of course, to satisfy the Magistrate that he is in a position to carry out its conditions.

---

42. FREE PASSES.

Under Ordinance VII of 1873, section 88, an unindentured immigrant is liable at any time to be stopped by a police constable, if unknown to that officer, and to be taken to the Immigration Office for identification, unless he is able to produce either a certificate of exemption from labour, or a pass. At the same time it must be stated that this provision of the law, which is necessary as a check on desertion and as a means of detecting deserters, is carried out in such a manner, as a rule, that no hardship arises therefrom. There is a desire to avoid all undue interference with the freedom of unindentured immigrants, and the efforts of this Department in this respect are met by the exercise of judgment and discretion on the part of the police.

Unindentured immigrants who are well known in the district in which they reside, can go about without either a certificate or a pass, without any fear of molestation.

---

43. EDUCATION.

The Government encourages and supports by money grants the spread of education, and many estates give considerable sums of money to maintain buildings and staff for these schools; but notwithstanding all these generous and well-meant efforts, I think it must be allowed that the small numbers of Indian children who benefit by them are not at all commensurate with the large sums of money spent for the purpose. Most Indian parents are profoundly indifferent to the education of their children. Mothers, however, are alive to the advantage of having a place to which they can send very young children to get them out of the way while they are at

work in the fields. These very small children form a large proportion of those I have met with in schools; but only a small proportion of cooly children receive any education.

If the manager wishes his cooly children to go to school, he can always arrange for it being done. Some estates only give those children work who go to school regularly. In fact, the regulation of education lies very much in the hands of the managers and of the Immigration Department.

The general school hours are from 9 to 12 A.M. and from 1 to 3 P.M., which leaves time for work both before and after. Religious (Christian) education is given to all; they are taught the Catechism, the Commandments, and the New Testament, and parents seldom or never make any objection to this practice. If they do, their children need not attend school until the religious teaching is finished. School generally begins with a hymn and prayers, which suits the negro boys, who are ostentatiously pious and fond of melody.

There is no obligation under the Immigration Ordinance on the part of employers in regard to the education of the children of immigrants, except such as are between the ages of ten and fifteen; and section 52 of ordinance 7 of 1873 provides that "minor immigrants," that is, immigrants under the age of fifteen and of or above the age of ten years, "shall not be indentured to any "employer who shall not previously have made provision to the satisfaction of "the Governor for the instruction of such minor immigrants in reading, writing "and the elements of arithmetic."

Children under the age of ten years, have, however, always been afforded the same opportunities of attending school that those over that age have enjoyed.

In 1876 an ordinance was passed (No. 14 of that year), entitled "An Ordinance to enforce elementary education," in which the following clauses occur in regard to children employed on estates:—

"Section 16.—Every employer of a child who has not obtained a certificate "of proficiency, and every manager of a plantation on which such a child is "employed at any work for the proprietors thereof, shall, on Monday in every "week after the first week in which such child shall have been employed or "shall have begun so to work on the plantation, obtain a certificate from a "teacher of a school that the child has attended school as required by this "Ordinance during the previous week, or has been prevented from attending "school by sickness or other unavoidable cause; and such employer or "manager shall keep such certificate for six months after the date thereof, and "shall produce the same to any Educational District Officer when required "during such period, and shall pay to the teacher of such child the school fee "payable in respect of such child herein required to be paid, and shall be "entitled to deduct from the wages payable by him to such child, or to the "father of such child, the sum which he shall have so paid. Every employer "of any such child, or manager of a plantation on which any such child is "employed, who shall not obtain such certificate with respect to such child, "shall, subject to the other provisions of this Ordinance, be deemed to have "employed such child in contravention of this Ordinance.

"Section 17.—No person shall be deemed to have taken any child into "his employment, or to have employed any child in contravention of this "Ordinance, if it shall be proved to the satisfaction of the Special Justice of the "Peace having cognizance of the case, either (1) that during the employment "there is not within two miles, measured according to the nearest road, from "the residence of such child, any Public Elementary School or any Day Indus-"trial School open which the child can attend; or (2) that such employment, "by reason of being during the school holidays, or during the hours during "which the school is not open, or otherwise, does not interfere with the "efficient elementary instruction of such child, and that the child obtains such "instruction in some efficient manner."

"Section 19.—Every person who takes a child into his employment, or who "employs a child in contravention of this Ordinance, shall be liable, on summary "conviction, to a penalty not exceeding ten dollars. Every complaint for "employing a child in contravention of this Ordinance may be in the form "in the schedule hereto annexed, numbered 10."

It is further provided under section 11 that "no person shall take into his "employment or shall employ any child who is under the age of nine years, or "who, being of the age of nine years or upwards, has not obtained a certificate of "proficiency in reading, writing, and elementary arithmetic, unless such child "during such employment attends an efficient school on every school day for

" two and a half hours between seven o'clock in the morning and six o'clock in " the evening, when not prevented by sickness or other unavoidable cause."

In order to facilitate the carrying out of the provisions of this ordinance, the Governor, with the advice and consent of the Court of Policy, by Proclamation to be published in the *Official Gazette*, may declare that any portion of the colony specified in such proclamation shall form a district for educational purposes, and he may appoint educational district officers to enforce the provisions of the ordinance and to prosecute all persons not complying therewith.

The law has not yet been put in force outside Georgetown and New Amsterdam.

The proportion of children resident on estates who attend school is very small, being only about ten per cent. of the total number of children ; and on estates where this is specially noticeable, it is owing partly to the indifference of the parents, and partly to a want of interest on the part of the employers. In regard to the co-operation of the managers, the Commissioners of 1870 made the following remark:—" We do not believe that education upon the estates will ever be anything more than a name, unless actively aided as well as permitted by the managers." In every instance in which the manager of an estate takes a personal interest in the education of the children and uses his influence to induce them to attend school, it will be found that there is a good attendance and that the children make satisfactory progress. The following extracts from the Annual Reports of the Immigration Agent-General for the years 1880, 1881 and 1882 afford further information on this subject :—

1880.—" Due provisionhas been made, in compliance with Ordinance No. 7, " 1873, section 52, on the estates throughout the colony, for the education of the " children of Indian immigrants. The application, however, in their regard, of " the Ordinance No. 14 of 1876, 'an ordinance to enforce elementary education,' " has given rise to a great deal of discussion. At a meeting of the Board of " Education, held on the 2nd May last to consider the new rules which had been " drawn up, the late Immigration Agent-General alluded to what had been " represented to him to be the effect on the parents of the application of com- " pulsory attendance, and he concluded as follows:—'The complaint had, " 'therefore, been very generally made, that at least some exception should be " 'made in regard to the compulsory teaching of those children who had " 'relatives entirely dependent on them, whose hours of labour were extremely " 'valuable to them, and whose constrained attendance at schools put in distress " 'those who were dependent upon them. It was a subject of complaint, but " 'one which might not as yet deserve any large remedy. There was a further " 'question, whether teaching could not be carried out among those children, " 'even if it was compulsory, only in their own vernacular language.' He added, " further, that he 'could cite other countries where English and French alone " 'were not considered advantageous to them, and a certain amount of teaching " 'in vernacular was imparted, as it would be useful to them when they " 'returned to their own country.'

"This subject came under discussion at a meeting of the Court of " Policy held on the 21st May, and the Honourable T. Mulligan expressed the " opinion that 'if the children of immigrants were to be required to attend school, " milder means should be adopted to secure that object'; and he further observed " that 'any attempt to force them would end in the long run in riot; at any rate " 'it was unsatisfactory that the District Officers should be constantly bringing " 'cases before the Magistrate.' He also stated that he 'had no hesitation in " 'saying that the result would be extremely dangerous. The Muhammadans " 'were making a very considerable stand against it. The Educational Officers, " 'finding that they were so far successful in their prosecutions, endeavoured " 'to push them, and the result was that a bad feeling was growing up among " 'the people, and if the Government allowed them to go on, it would lead to very " 'serious results which would be brought about as much by the action of the " 'law as by themselves. The coolies themselves were not slow to see how " inconsistent was the system of education now in existence.' The late Immi- " gration Agent-General stated that he considered the enforcement of the law " against the Indian population as 'straining the law.'

"I do not think that there is, as a general rule, any objection on the "part of the immigrants to their children attending school except in cases in "which the parents have to depend on them to some extent for support. The "immigrants who have applied for grants of land at 'Huis t' Dieren' specially "asked that a school should be established in the village. At the same time, "compulsion by means of fines and imprisonment would be likely to stir up a "strong feeling of opposition. Section 11 of the 'Ordinance to enforce element-"ary education,' by which the employment of a child under the age of nine years "is prohibited, is a source of hardship to the immigrants, because on most "estates large gangs of little children under that age are often employed in "light work, such as carrying earth, ashes or manure, and this is not only a "benefit to the parents, but also a source of pleasure to themselves. No one "who has seen these children at work, each with a little basket in which "to convey a nominal load, running backwards and forwards in high glee and "spirits, could fail to feel pleasure at witnessing them being thus trained "up to active and industrious habits. The employment of children under nine "years of age may be, and no doubt is, open to grave objection when the con-"ditions and nature of their occupations are such as to produce physical and "moral degeneracy; but in this country, where their work is as much pastime as "labour, and is conducive to the promotion of health and vigour both of body "and mind, the necessity for such a restriction does not appear to me to "exist.

"The Royal Commissioners appointed in 1872 to enquire into the "treatment of immigrants in Mauritius, in the report submitted by them, "strongly recommended the adoption of a system of compulsory education. "The Earl of Carnarvon, in his despatch No. 26, dated March 11th, 1875, to "Sir A. Phayre, K.C.S.I., C.B., then Governor of Mauritius, in alluding to this "recommendation of the Commissioners, made the following remark:—'How far "this can be carried on in the case of Indian children, it will be for you to con-"sider.' The system recommended by the Commissioners was that which was "contemplated in 1857 by Governor Higginson, and which provided that the "vernacular should be the vehicle of instruction. The Governor was not supported "in his views in this respect by the members of the Special Committee of Council, "and an ordinance was passed, one clause of which provided that the French "language was to be the medium of instruction, and that English was also to be "taught. The Court of Directors of the East India Company, however, denied "the right of the colony to force upon the Indian children a system of educa-"tion from which their mother-tongue was excluded; and Lord Stanley, the "Secretary of State for India, in supporting this view, stated that it appeared "to him unjust to subject the children or their parents to conditions of which "they had not been apprised at the time of their quitting India. The "ordinance was consequently never brought into operation.

"This question is one in which the desire on the part of the Govern-"ment to confer moral and intellectual benefits on the children of the Indian "immigrant conflicts in some degree with the rights and prejudices of their "parents; and it is, consequently, surrounded with many difficulties. I cannot, "therefore, but think that if compulsory education is to be insisted on, it should "be conducted on principles calculated to eliminate as far as possible all those "elements of hardship and of interference with religious prejudices which tend "to create a feeling of opposition and repugnance that would not otherwise exist."

1881.—"This subject has received an amount of attention and pecuniary "support unusual in other West Indian colonies.

"Of the 102 estates in British Guiana, there are 43 unprovided with schools, "and, with few exceptions, they are within a reasonable distance of parochial "or other elementary institutions. There are estates where the school-room has "been provided, but the necessary machinery does not exist. The managers, "getting no encouragement from the parents of the children, after a time lost "interest in the work. On some properties the children attend school for an "hour or two in the morning before going about their daily avocations, which "is probably the best plan.

"There can be little doubt that the parents of the juvenile immigrant "population of this country are, as a rule, about as unamenable to compulsory "education as the average English peasant. Any attempt to enforce the "attendance of children of Hindu or Muhammadan parents at estates' schools,

" where the teaching is of necessity more or less of a denominational character, " should be discountenanced.

"I am informed that the Hindu population, at least, regard with indifference the religious aspect of the question. A knowledge of the English language would probably tend to attach the rising generation to the soil, and would be more readily acquired in school than at home. The proprietors of plantations having provided the means of education and given the movement a certain impulse, appear to have done their duty; it depends mainly on the manager whether the estate's school proves a success or the reverse. He is the true *Deus ex machina:* witness the prosperous well-attended schools on some estates, the empty silent rooms in others. Those—and there are many—who have gone further, and used every means in their power to encourage education, short of coercion, deserve what they assuredly will not receive—the gratitude of their employés, *pero Dios se lo pagara en el otro mundo.*

"The following extract from Mr. Sub-Agent Gladwin's Report on Education may be found interesting. As regards the compulsion referred to as very effective in promoting a regular attendance at school, I trust the manager has found other, though less effective, means of encouraging education among the children of Indian immigrants:—

"'I find nothing in this district which distinguishes the schools from 'those in that formerly under my charge (No. 3). It is only where the 'manager takes an interest in his school that the attendance bears any 'reasonable proportion to the number of children on the roll. When the children are left to themselves, the attendance invariably falls off. The parents 'are either indifferent to, or averse from, sending the children to school. 'They regard the time spent there as time wasted, and this is not extraordinary when we take into account the fact that very young children can 'earn from 8 to 12 cents per diem in the Creole gang. In one instance which 'came before me in No. 3 District, two little boys under 12 years were the 'principal support of their mother, a feeble and delicate woman. This woman 'was summoned for not sending her children to school. To have done so 'would have involved starvation for the whole family. I reported on this 'case to Mr. Daly, and I believe in consequence the Education Officers were 'requested to refrain from prosecuting immigrants. Various methods are 'adopted to keep up the attendance at school. The most common is the 'employment of a driver, male or female, to turn out the children and take them 'to school. The plan usually works pretty well; but in case a parent refused 'to allow his children to accompany the driver, that individual would have 'nothing but physical force to back his authority. On some estates the 'Creoles are not allowed to go to the field until they have been to school, and 'this plan seems to work fairly well, but does not touch the children who are 'too young to work. The most effectual mode of compelling attendance I 'have seen was that practised by the manager of plantation ——— when I 'was in No. 3 District. The whole responsibility was left on the children, 'and a daily absent report sent in to the manager. Early each morning the 'absentees were paraded before Mr. ———, and those whose absence could 'not be satisfactorily accounted for, received a certain number of cuts on the 'hand. Whatever may be thought of the method, it was very effectual, and 'at the time I speak of the attendance at ——— school was within about six 'of the number on the roll.'"

1882.—"As regards the educational advantages offered to the juvenile Indian immigrant population, the colony of British Guiana is *facile princeps.* I do not deny that more might be done.

"Where so large a section of the community speaks Hindustani, it is time that the language should be taught in the Queen's College. There are those resident in the colony capable of giving instruction both colloquially and in the several characters in general use; and the 'rising generation' would thus have opportunities of familiarizing themselves with the language and customs of an important section of the community.

"Gratuitous education should be open to six boys in the Queen's College, selected annually by competitive examination from amongst the children attending estates and village schools.

"I am indebted to Messrs. Baldwin & Co., Publishers, &c., for the following information in connection with the sale of books in Hindustani and Nagri,

" many of them standard works, showing clearly that the taste for their national " literature is far from extinct, and that besides an English education, which is " within easy reach of all immigrants, instruction in their own language is also " available:—'We imported no books from India during 1882; our last lot " 'came to hand by the *Ellora* early in 1881, and consisted of 1,224 volumes, " 'comprising about 35 different works. Those must all have been disposed " 'of within twelve months, but we cannot give you the exact time: and to the " 'best of our knowledge they were all purchased by East Indian immigrants.'"

Very young children are not sent to the schools to get them out of the way while their mothers are at work. The estates provide nurses for this purpose, one on each estate, who have the supervision of those children who are too young to go to school. The children who attend school are as a rule between the ages of four and ten.

There are no Indian schools.

The number of children who are fairly well educated and become clerks, shop assistants, pupil teachers, dispensers, catechists, interpreters, &c., is not very large, but is certainly increasing.

---

44. MISSIONARIES.

Missionary work amongst the immigrants is carried on principally by the Church of England and the Church of Scotland. It cannot, however, be said that much progress is made in converting the coolies to Christianity, especially among the Muhammadans; at any rate the progress made is very slow.

In 1873, through the liberality of Mr. Quintin Hogg, a Mission in connexion with the Church of England was established at Bel Air with a clergyman at its head. Another Mission was subsequently started at Nonpareil, and there are now three missionaries and twenty catechists at work. There is also a Missionary College at Bel Air for training catechists.

The following tables, taken from the Report of the Committee of the East Indian and Chinese Mission for the year ending 30th June 1891, give the results of the Mission work, and also the receipts and expenditure in connexion therewith.

MISSION WORK.

	Persons under instruction.		Baptisms, adults.		Baptisms, infants.		Confirmed.		Total number of Christians on Mission.		Services.		Visits to estates, etc.	Marriages.		Communicants.		Left for India and China.		Remarks.
	E. I.	Chinese.	E. I.	Chinese.	E. I.	Chinese.	E. I.	Chinese.	E. I.	Chinese.	Sunday.	Week day		E. I.	Chinese.	E. I.	Chinese.	India.	China.	
Bel Air	10	...	18	...	6	2	23	...	75	18	276	1,052	2,001	4	...	48	...	10	...	
Nonpareil	26	3	10	5	8	4	...	...	115	198	505	1,524	3,917	...	3	54	69	4	...	
S. George's	9	...	10	...	4	...	15	...	57	...	156	153	1,334	2	...	22	...	3	...	
Christchurch	7	...	14	...	4	...	12	...	25	...	55	...	...	1	...	15	...	...	...	
S. Phillip's	...	...	7	11	...	17	...	4	...	182	130	...	...	...	12	...	48	...	7	
S. Matthew's	5	7	2	1	1	...	...	...	141	110	104	74	598	1	...	...	71	...	...	One quarter's statistics missing.
S. Swithin's	79	...	15	...	6	2	12	...	66	7	55	171	413	2	2	25	7	...	...	
S. Peter's	6	4	3	1	7	4	...	...	74	30	157	821	2,088	...	...	20	10	4	3	
Holy Trinity	41	2	2	...	3	2	2	5	90	63	86	1	1,127	3	2	14	30	...	...	
S. Patrick's	...	1	3	2	2	1	...	...	50	26	68	233	710	...	3	18	11	...	...	
Cane Grove	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	10	1	86	183	705	...	...	6	...	...	...	
S. John's	4	..	...	...	1	1	...	...	75	...	136	297	2,923	...	...	9	...	...	...	
Wakenaam	...	..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	17	59	...	...	...	...	.	...	...	Statistics for 6 weeks.
Totals ...	187	17	85	21	42	33	64	9	778	635	1,831	4,568	15,816	13	22	231	246	21	10	

THE TREASURER IN ACCOUNT WITH THE BRITISH GUIANA COOLY MISSIONS COMMITTEE.

From 1st July 1890 to 30th June 1891.

1890.	Receipts.	$	c.	1891.	Expenditure.	$	c.
July 1	—Balance in hand ...	1,631	04	June 30	—By Salaries of missionaries ...	2,403	70
1891.					„ Catechists and students	2,979	39
June 30	—To Subscriptions and donations	484	05		„ Repairs at Kitty	619	15
	„ Offertory collections	352	69		„ Stationery and postages for Training School Secretary and Treasurer	48	87
	„ Estates' payments for catechists ...	466	00		„ Travelling expenses ...	442	97
	„ Estates' allowance for missionaries' travelling expenses	240	00		„ Sundries including sacred elements ...	21	82
	„ Books sold ...	20	40		„ Rent	278	00
	„ Colony grant ...	2,880	00		„ Printing	93	40
	„ S. P. G. grant ...	1,104	00		„ Insurance	20	00
	„ G. D. C. S. grant ...	500	00		„ Loan	60	00
	„ Loans refunded ...	218	50		„ Taxes on Kitty Mission House	60	00
	„ Interest	667	20		„ Balance	1,547	18
	„ Miscellaneous ...	11	30				
		8,575	18			8,575	18

Examined and found correct.

C. G. A. WYATT,
Auditor.

17th August 1891.

N. B.—As the salaries of the missionaries and catechists are paid monthly, and the revenue comes in irregularly, some amounts being paid yearly, some half-yearly, and some quarterly, it is *absolutely necessary* to keep a large balance in hand.

The statistics given above do not include the results of missionary work in Berbice or the Demerara river, of which no information is available.

The Wesleyans also work quietly among the coolies, and every year several immigrants are received into the Roman Catholic Church.

45. MURDERS.

The following statement shows the number of murders committed by Indian immigrants during the five years 1886 to 1890 :—

Year.	Total murders.	Wives by husbands or reputed husbands.	Women by men.	Men by men.
1886	9	3	3	3
1887	9	8	1	...
1888	13	10	2	1
1889	5	3	...	2
1890	1	1	...	...
	37	25	6	6

It is gratifying to find that during the last two years the number of murders has considerably decreased. Every effort is made, both by the Immigration Department and the managers of estates, to prevent acts of violence, and transfer

is found to be the most effectual means, or rather the only effectual means, of securing that object.

The following circular was addressed to the managers of estates on the 16th July 1889:—

IMMIGRATION DEPARTMENT,
16*th July* 1889.

No. 1675/706.

SIR,

In a recent case of wife-murder, the evidence at the trial disclosed the fact that the husband of the murdered woman had made a complaint to the manager, who then took upon himself the entire responsibility of settling the case, without bringing it under the notice of this Department and obtaining advice and assistance.

2. The Judge, in his remarks, animadverted very strongly on the action of the manager, and I am now directed by the Governor to draw your attention to the danger of neglecting to use every precaution in such cases, and to the necessity for at once consulting this Department in all instances in which complaint is made by immigrants in regard to the conduct of their wives or reputed wives.

I have, &c.,
A. H. ALEXANDER,
Immigration Agent-General.

The following extracts from the Annual Reports of the Immigration Agent-General for the five years ending 1890 explain the circumstances of the cases of murder which occurred during those years:—

1886.—"In 1886 the number of murders was the same as in 1885, viz. "nine. In all of these cases the victims were women, eight of them being the "wives or reputed wives of the men charged with the crime. Only four of "these murders, however, were traced to jealousy. In one of the other cases "there had been a quarrel, and in the other three there was no evidence as to "the motive. In the ninth case, three Madras men were charged with the "murder of a woman with whom they were in no way connected, and the crime "was supposed to have been the result of a drunken brawl.

"Sentence of death was pronounced in six cases; but in four this sentence "was afterwards commuted to one of penal servitude for life. The remaining "three cases were disposed of as follows, viz., one was acquitted for want of "sufficient evidence, one died before trial, and in the third there was a verdict "of manslaughter.

"In regard to the case in which three Madras men were charged with the "murder of a woman, one was found guilty of murder, and is included amongst "the six immigrants mentioned in the preceding paragraph, on whom sentence "of death was passed and whose sentence was afterwards commuted. The "other two men implicated in this crime were found guilty of manslaughter."

1887.—"In 1887 there were three murders, but only one could be traced to "jealousy, viz., that of an unindentured female who was killed by her reputed "husband for infidelity. In the other cases, one was that of an indentured "woman who left her husband in consequence of his bad treatment, and as she "refused to return to him, he murdered her in the field where she was working "and then attempted to commit suicide. The other case was that of an unin- "dentured woman who was found strangled in her house, the motive apparently "having been robbery. Two immigrants were tried for the crime, but no "conviction obtained. In the first two cases, sentence of death was passed "and carried into effect."

1888.—"I regret to have to report that there were during 1888 ten murders of "women by their husbands or reputed husbands from motives of jealousy. In "one case the man committed suicide after the murder: in another, insanity "following on the sentence of death prevented its being carried out; in four

"cases the sentence of death was commuted to one of penal servitude for life: "and in two the capital punishment was carried out. The remaining two cases "are still under investigation.* In addition to the above, an old man and his "wife were murdered at plantation Versailles, the alleged cause being their "having overheard a conspiracy to kill the Deputy Manager and Head Foreman "of the estate:† and at plantation Zeelandia, a man, on account of jealousy, "attacked his reputed wife, her mother, and the man who was the cause of his "jealousy, severely wounding the two women and killing the man. He has "been sentenced to death."‡

1889.—"Five murders occurred during the year, two of these being of men "and three of women who were killed by their husbands or reputed husbands. "In one of the latter cases the woman cohabited with a man who went back to "India in 1885, leaving her in the colony. He returned in 1888, bringing a "wife, but some time afterwards he tried to induce his former reputed wife "to live with him again. Upon her refusing to do so, he killed her, and being "convicted he was sentenced to death and executed. In the second case, the "man and his reputed wife, while under the influence of drink, had a quarrel, "during which the woman expressed her determination to leave him. Next "morning she was found dead, with her head nearly severed from her body. "The man was convicted of the crime and executed. In the third case, the man "believed that his reputed wife was unfaithful to him, although there was no "direct evidence of the fact, and early one morning she was found in her house "with several wounds, from the effects of which she died shortly afterwards. "He was convicted and condemned to death. This sentence, however, was "commuted to penal servitude for life.

"Of the men who were murdered, one was the victim of a conspiracy on "the part of three Arabs, convict refugees from Cayenne, one of whom had "contracted an intimacy with his reputed wife. They were all convicted and "sentenced to death. In the case of two, however, the sentence was commuted "to penal servitude for life. The remaining case was the result of a quarrel "between two rival priests, during which, while under the influence of ganja, "one of them struck the other on the head with a stick, fracturing his skull. "He was convicted of manslaughter, and was sentenced to penal servitude for "five years."

1890.—"There was only one murder during the year. It originated in a quarrel "between a woman named Lugnee, No. 361, *Earl Russell*, 1865, and her reputed "husband Lalli, No. 258, *Ellora*, 1881, about the small amount earned by him "during the week. She made use of very abusive and obscene language "towards him, and this so incensed him that he chopped her with a cutlass "and then gave himself into the custody of the police. He was convicted and "sentence of death passed on him; but this was subsequently commuted to "penal servitude for life."

There were 35 cases of "cutting and wounding" of wives or reputed wives during the five years 1886 to 1890.

---

46. SUICIDES.

During the five years 1886 to 1890, both inclusive, there were 28 cases of suicide, viz., in 1886, five; in 1887, four; in 1888, five; in 1889, five; and in 1890, nine.

In every case of suicide careful investigation is always made in order to trace, if possible, the cause of the act; but, as a rule, neither the proceedings at the inquest, nor subsequent enquiries on the estates, lead to any result.

In one case the immigrant who committed suicide was a woman.

---

47. ORPHANS.

When immigrants indentured to or resident on an estate die, leaving orphan children, the Immigration Agent-General is at once informed either by the

---

* In both these cases a verdict of manslaughter has been returned.
† The four immigrants charged with this crime have since been convicted and sentenced to death.
‡ This sentence was subsequently commuted to one of penal servitude for life.

Manager or by the Sub-Immigration Agent. It frequently happens that other immigrants ask to be allowed to adopt the children, and this is permitted, provided the Immigration Agent-General is satisfied that the applicants are steady and respectable and in a position to maintain the orphans. When no such arrangement can be made for the care of the children, they are sent to the depôt and kept there until they can be placed under the charge of suitable persons who may be willing to assume the care of them. There is no difficulty in finding such persons, as frequent applications are made to this office for orphans, and a record is kept of all such applications. A preference is given to East Indians.

As soon as an adoption has been arranged, an entry containing full particulars is made in a Register of Orphans kept for that purpose. A notification thereof is also forwarded in each case to the Sub-Immigration Agent of the district in which the appointed guardian resides, and it is the duty of the Sub-Immigration Agents to see all the orphans in their districts once in every three months, and to report to the Immigration Agent-General on their condition. To secure this supervision, each Sub-Immigration Agent is required to keep a record of all the orphans in his district. The following is a copy of a circular addressed to the Sub-Immigration Agents on this subject on the 28th April 1884:—

IMMIGRATION DEPARTMENT,

28*th April* 1884.

SIR,

I have the honour to inform you that in all cases of orphans of East Indian descent being adopted with the recognition and approval of the authorities, His Excellency has directed that periodical enquiries should be made by the local Sub-Agents as to their health, condition, etc. I have, therefore, to request that you will furnish me with quarterly reports on all such cases in your district, not later than the 15th of the month following the end of the quarter.

I have, &c.,

A. H. ALEXANDER,

Immigration Agent-General.

Orphans who, on account of their being very young infants or in bad health, cannot be dealt with in the manner described above, are sent to the Orphan Asylum.

The number of children at present in the Orphan Asylum is 16, and there are 204 who have been adopted and are under the supervision of the Immigration Department.

When an orphan becomes old enough for employment, the Managing Director may, with the approval of the Governor, permit him to live with any trustworthy and respectable person willing to receive, teach, train, and take charge of him. After a child has been placed out in the above manner, if he has conducted himself well, the manager may bind him, with his own consent, until he shall complete the age of eighteen years, apprentice to any trade, calling, or service.

---

48. OCCUPATIONS FOLLOWED BY UNINDENTURED IMMIGRANTS WHO DO NOT WORK ON THE ESTATES.

Some of the better class who have money invest it in shops, while others lend out their money at high rates of interest.

Others again are engaged as boxwallahs and hucksters, and the former have frequently large and valuable stocks of Indian goods and do a large trade. Vendors of sweetmeats are numerous.

The following are the other occupations generally followed by the immigrants :—

Rice cultivation.
Cattle farming.
Growing provisions.
Jobbers about town.
Grass-cutters.
Gardeners.
Grooms
Jockeys (Creoles).
Fishermen, chiefly Madras immigrants.
Cabmen, some as owners, others as drivers.
Tram-car drivers.
Cartmen, some as owners, others as drivers.
Barbers.
Boatmen.
Tailors.
Rope makers.
Charcoal burners.
Seine makers.
Goldsmiths.
Workers in clay, out of which they make goblets, flower pots, pipe bowls, etc.
Domestic servants.
Manufacturers of cocoanut oil.

49. COMPLAINTS UNDER THE IMMIGRATION LAWS.

The following tables show the number of charges brought before the Magistrates by employers against immigrants and by immigrants against employers under the Immigration Ordinances, for ten years, viz., from 1881 to 1890, both inclusive :—

EMPLOYERS AGAINST IMMIGRANTS.

YEAR.	Indentured population.	Complaints.	Withdrawn.	Struck off.	Dismissed.	Convicted.	Percentage of complaints to Indian population.
1881	22,879	4,256	963	412	337	2,544	18·60
1882	21,624	5,059	1,125	777	282	2,875	23·40
1883	16,479	4,054	936	511	247	2,360	24·60
1884	15,251	3,484	785	417	343	1,939	22·84
1885	17,257	2,620	520	294	258	1,548	15·12
1886	17,144	2,610	526	286	246	1,552	15·22
1887	17,770	2,848	588	295	298	1,667	16·02
1888	18,243	3,376	730	300	301	2,045	18·51
1889	17,283	3,055	762	324	271	1,698	17·67
1890	15,567	3,732	952	359	342	2,079	23·97

IMMIGRANTS AGAINST EMPLOYERS.

YEAR.	Indentured population.	Complaints.	Withdrawn.	Struck off.	Dismissed.	Convicted.	Percentage of complaints to Indian population.
1881 ...	22,879	33	11	2	10	10	·14
1882 ...	21,624	24	...	2	16	6	·11
1883 ...	16,479	16	...	1	11	4	·09
1884 ..	15,251	26	1	6	15	4	·17
1885 ...	17,257	14	...	1	7	6	·08
1886 ...	17,144	16	...	3	4	9	·05
1887 ...	17,770	5	...	...	1	4	·02
1888 ...	18,243	13	...	4	8	1	·01
1889 ...	17,283	7	1	...	5	1	·04
1890 ...	15,567	11	...	4	4	3	·07

The number of charges against immigrants for offences against the labour laws has been very much diminished since the passing of Ordinance 4 of 1876. Previous to the coming into force of that ordinance there were numerous charges brought against immigrants for "wilful indolence," a term which was a source of much misconception on the part of the managers and also of some of the Magistrates. In allusion to this subject, the Immigration Agent-General in the Annual Report for the year 1875 made the following remark:—"The "prosecutions by the employers against the immigrants were very considerable, "as well as the convictions and commitments arising out of the construction "put on Ordinance 7 of 1873, section 105, now happily repealed by Ordinance 4 "of 1876."

Under Ordinance 4 of 1876, "absence from work" was substituted for "wilful indolence," and instead of being an offence punishable in a summary manner by fine or imprisonment, the ordinance provided for its being dealt with by the Sub-Immigration Agents by prolongation of indenture.

It has already been explained under the heading of "absence from work," that after a time the managers discontinued sending in reports to the Sub-Immigration Agents, against the immigrants, and that consequently the provisions of Ordinance 4 of 1876 in regard to absence from work ceased to be put in operation. Notwithstanding this, however, the number of charges against immigrants under the labour laws is still very much less than it used to be, as will be seen by a reference to the percentage of charges given in the table, under the heading of absence from work, during the years 1874, 1875 and 1876, when the percentage ranged from 30 to 37 per cent. of the population.

50. PENAL PUNISHMENTS.

In the case of immigrants who are disposed to be indolent, gaol labour is not a deterrent punishment, especially where the sentences do not exceed seven or fourteen days. The Inspector of Prisons, in his Annual Report for 1890, has drawn special attention to the inefficacy of the present system of gaol labour outside the prison walls as a deterrent. In the 14th paragraph of that report he made the following remarks:—"The work advocated for local prisons is "work within the prison walls; in my opinion the prisoner should never see "the outside of a prison from the day he is sentenced to the day he is "released. . . . . Again, what is the object of the police and the law "officers obtaining convictions if the sentences are rendered futile by reason "of the prisons at Suddie and New Amsterdam being left open to the "public gaze, and our having to supply outside prison gangs to the public "works, well knowing that if the warders enforce a proper task, that several "of their gangs will escape, to say nothing of their procuring tobacco, &c. "Outside labour, where it is even impossible to come in contact with the public, "I may say is, or at least should be, obsolete."

Mr. Griffin, Sub-Immigration Agent, Berbice, states in reference to the gaol at New Amsterdam :—"Gaol was not a deterrent until lately, when breaking "stones inside the gaol was introduced instead of their being employed on the "roads, and they feel this punishment very much, as they have no chance now "of seeing their friends or obtaining tobacco, as they used before to do."

Indifference to gaol does not, however, extend to the immigrants generally; for apart from all consideration as to the nature of prison work, the thought of separation from their families, and other personal motives, if not sufficiently powerful to prevent them in a moment of irritation or obstinacy from committing an offence, instigate them to ask the managers to withdraw the summonses on their paying the costs.

During the five years 1886 to 1890, thirty-three per cent. of the charges against immigrants were either "withdrawn" or "struck out" in consequence of the employer not appearing to prosecute.

The number of women sent to gaol is very amall. Special returns of all such cases are forwarded by the Magistrates to the Governor, and are by him sent to the Immigration Agent-General. These returns are then transmitted to the Sub-Immigration Agents for enquiry and report as to the character, &c., of the woman, and if it is found that imprisonment has not been attended with any good results, the employers frequently consent to the indenture being cancelled.

51. PROPERTY OWNED BY EAST INDIAN IMMIGRANTS.

The property owned by East Indian immigrants in land and houses in the city of Georgetown and in the town of New Amsterdam amounts to the value of $129,305, the taxes payable on which are $2,580-70, viz.—

	Value of property.	Taxes.
In Georgetown	$91,530	$1,830-03
„ New Amsterdam ...	37,535	750-10

It must, however, be observed that these statistics do not represent all the property owned by immigrants, but give only an approximate amount; for if immigrants or other persons becoming possessed of house property do not exhibit transports or other documents, the property will not appear in their names, but remains in those of the original owners.

In the villages, 23 in number, worked under the control of the Central Board of Health, the value of the houses and lots owned by East Indian immigrants is $102,543-50, the rates payable on which are $2,104-12.

The following is a summary of the village properties:—

No.	Name of village.	No of coolies.	No of houses.	Value of houses.	Value of land.	Total value.	Rates per annum.
				$	$	$	$ c.
1	Alexanderville ...	37	48	3,255	960	4,215	84 30
2	Plaisance ...	74	86	4,835	135	4,970	90 40
3	Beterverwagting	74	47	4,771	60	4,831	96 62
4	Buxton ...	14	16	1,300	298	1,598	31 96
5	Friendship ...	53	56	2,784	600	3,384	67 68
6	Golden Grove ...	5	...	...	1,500	1,500	30 00
7	Nabaclis ...	8	...	...	1,650	1,650	33 00
8	Two Friends ...	9	9	245	100	345	9 90
9	Ann's Grove ...	8	8	335	150	485	9 70
10	Craig ...	1	...	...	17	17	0 34
11	Meadow Bank ...	13	26	3,100	1,275	4,375	87 50
12	Sisters ...	7	...	...	2,187-50	2,187-50	43 75
13	Good Intent ...	4	...	...	1,502	1,502	30 04
14	Bagotville ...	32	...	...	3,888	3,888	77 76
15	Stanley Town ...	13	...	...	1,200	1,200	24 00
16	Den Amstel ...	56	75	6,945	1,900	8,845	176 90
17	Fellowship ...	4	5	295	50	345	6 90
18	Concordia ..	1	...	...	240	240	4 80
19	Ridge ...	24	31	466	16,740	17,206	344 12
20	Daniel's Town ...	18	15	500	600	1,100	22 00
21	Queen's Town ...	94	119	6,960	1,204	8,164	259 53
22	Cumberland ...	53	117	4,673	1,048	5,721	114 42
23	New Siah ...	44	42	2,940	6,325	9,265	185 30
24	The Lodge ...	...	...	...	...	6,210	124 70
25	Albuoystown ...	...	...	...	...	9,300	139 50
		646	700	43,404	43,629-50	102,543-50	2,104-12

The above statement gives, however, a very small proportion of the value of property owned by immigrants throughout the colony, as there are no means of ascertaining the value of such property in the manner afforded by villages under the Central Board of Health.

---

52. SETTLEMENTS.

The first attempt to form a settlement of East Indians, by the offer of grants of land in lieu of back passage, was made in 1871, when the Government purchased for that purpose a property named "Nooten Zuill" on the East Coast, Demerara, for the sum of $15,000. The place, however, did not please the immigrants, and not one came forward to apply for a grant.

After remaining for a number of years in the possession of the Government, Nooten Zuill was sold to the proprietor of a neighbouring estate for a sum very much less than the amount paid for it.

In 1877 a number of immigrants in Berbice sent in a petition to the Government, praying that plantation Bestandigheid might be purchased, and expressing their readiness to take grants of land there in exchange for their right to a return passage to India. The Sub-Agent of the district was thereupon directed to inspect the plantation and to report on its suitability for the purpose. The report was unfavourable, as several lots of the land on the river side had already been sold to blacks, and this would have led to constant feuds between them and the cooly settlers; besides which there would have been difficulties in the way of medical attendance.

In 1879 a similar request was made by certain immigrants in connection with an estate named "L'Amitie" or "Broke Pot," and a visit of inspection was made by the Immigration Agent-General and four of the Elective Members of the Court of Policy. Although suitable in many respects, the locality was not considered a healthy one and the application was not entertained.

In 1884 four immigrants sent in a petition to the Government, stating that they were desirous of purchasing this property for $1,000, but that they were not prepared to pay the money at once, and they therefore prayed the Government to advance the money for them on a guarantee of repayment by instalments of $200 per quarter. This was agreed to, and they have since paid up the amount in full.

In 1880 the Government, purchased an abandoned estate named Huis t'Dieren in Essequebo, as being a suitable spot for a cooly settlement. This property offered many advantages to settlers, and applications for grants were made as soon as the land had been surveyed by the Crown Surveyor. The following is an extract from the Annual Report of the Immigration Agent-General for 1880 on this subject:—

"Progress is now being made in the arrangements for the proposed "settlement of Indian immigrants at Huis t'Dieren. The land is being "surveyed and divided into lots, and the immigrants are very anxious to "be allowed to proceed at once with the construction of their houses. They "cannot, however, be authorized to do this until the terms of agreement are "fully and finally settled, and the regulations are approved and published. "The zamindar states that from 500 to 700 immigrants have expressed a desire "to commute their claims to back passages for grants of land. As the "conditions of settlement are at present engaging the attention of the Honor-"able the Court of Policy, I trust that all the points under discussion will soon "be definitely settled. The immigrants are growing impatient, and it is therefore "very important that there should be as little delay as possible in arriving at a "decision in regard to those questions which still remain undecided. I feel sure "that when this settlement is established, the immigrants in other parts of the "colony will come forward and apply to the Government for similar arrange-"ments to be made in their regard."

The survey of the land was completed in November 1880, and in January 1881 the Chief Interpreter of this Department was placed in charge as Zamindar or Superintendent. Very little progress, however, was made during 1881 on account of the condition of the front and back dams, kokers and main draining trenches, all of which required to be put in proper order. The work of dividing the land into cultivation and village lots had also to be completed. There was, in addition, a disinclination on the part of the immigrants to agree to the conditions of the Government as to their being responsible for the keeping up the sea dam, public road, &c., after being put in good order by the Government. Towards the close of 1881 the following Regulations were made by the Governor and Court of Policy:—

Rules and Conditions for the Regulation of Grants of Land at Plantation Huis t'Dieren to Indian Immigrants in lieu of Back Passages to India.

1. Each adult immigrant who may desire to relinquish all claim to a back passage to India may have an allotment of two acres of land for cultivation and one-fourth of an acre suitable for a place of residence.

2. Children between 10 and 15 years of age may receive two acres of land for cultivation, but no village lot.

3. Children between the age of one and ten years may receive a grant of half an acre of land.

4. The lands shall be allotted to the applicants in regular and continuous order according to the priority of their applications: provided that His Excellency the Governor reserves to himself the right to refuse an allotment to any immigrant whom, on account of physical incapacity or moral obliquity, he may consider unsuited for the settlement.

5. The Government will fence in a portion of ground for a grazing ground to be used by the settlers in common in such proportions as the Zamindar may decide.

6. The Government will deliver to the settlers the front and back dam, kokers, main drainage trenches, and public road, in thorough order and repair, and will continue to maintain the same; but after the first cost of repair has been paid by the Government, the land will be held liable to subsequent expenses under such special or general scheme as may hereafter be determined.

7. The settlers will have the opportunity of being employed on these works at a reasonable rate of wages.

8. The Government will be prepared to carry out any scheme of irrigation which may be devised by the settlers, and the cost of which, with interest, they will agree to repay by a water rate.

9. The Government will take the necessary proceedings to eject all squatters from Huis t'Dieren and Middlesex.

10. Transports of the land will be given to settlers as soon as possible after the lands are allotted and occupied; provided that at the same time and place each settler shall release the Government of British Guiana from all obligation to furnish him or her with a free passage to India.

11. The Zamindar, under the direction of the Immigration Agent-General, shall exercise a general supervision over the immigrants, and shall settle any little disputes that may arise between them.

12. It is proposed to establish a dispensary on the estate, to be visited at least twice a week by the District Medical Officer; the fee for his advice to be 32 cents for immigrants applying at the dispensary and 48 cents for visits to their houses.

Settled and approved by the Governor and Court of Policy, this 16th day of December 1881.

By Command,

GEO. MELVILLE,

Acting Secretary.

Only 57 petitions for lots were received in 1881, and these were all granted with the exception of three. In the Annual Report for 1881, the Immigration Agent-General made the following reference to this property:—

"Portions of two abandoned properties, known as the Huis t'Dieren and "Middlesex, belonging to the colony, have been laid out in some 350 allot- "ments for Indian immigrants desirous of commuting their right to a return "passage to India for an equivalent of land. These lots average about two "acres, an ample *quid pro quo*, taking into consideration the value of the "land when drained and defended from the incursions of the sea in front and "inundations of the bush water in the rear. . . . Fifty-seven petitions "have been received for two-acre lots, and all, with three exceptions, granted. "I am informed by the officer in charge of the settlement, that a considerable "number of immigrants are merely waiting to see the grants issued to the "present occupants to apply for land themselves."

Sir Henry Turner Irving came to the colony as Governor on the 4th May 1882, and at the meeting of the Combined Court held on the 30th of that month, he, in the course of his address, suggested the discontinuance of grants of lands to East Indian immigrants in lieu of back passage, and expressed the

opinion that it would be more satisfactory to afford the immigrants facilities for the purchase of land. The following is a copy of his remarks on this subject:—

"The vote for immigration includes an item of $75,000 to defray the "cost of return passages. The permanent settlement in the country of the "East Indian immigrant population is a matter in which the interests of the "colony are deeply concerned. There are two ways by which a tendency on "the part of the immigrants to return to India may be counteracted. The one "is by offering them inducement in the shape of grants of land or of money "to sell or commute their right to back passage; the other is by rendering "them so satisfied with their position in the colony as to remove any inclina-"tion on their part to exercise the right. The system of commutation has the "advantage of extinguishing a claim against the colony which would otherwise "remain dormant; but it may frequently involve a needless expense in buying "up a right which the immigrant has relinquished all intention of exercising, "while I believe that the object in view can be equally attained by enabling "the immigrants to buy land for themselves in such localities and in such "quantities as may suit their tastes and requirements. Cooly settlement "brought about in this way is, in my opinion, likely to be more satisfactory "and successful than a settlement effected by free grants of land given in "commutation of the right of return passage, in localities selected for the "immigrants by Government and under Government supervision or control. "And although the cooly who buys his land does not surrender his right to "return passage, there is little danger of the right being claimed by a man who "has established himself with his wife and family in a homestead on his own "freehold. The existence in the colony of considerable settlements in which "the coolies have been able to obtain land on no better tenure than that "of tenants or sub-tenants, affords a measure of the demand for land which "might spring up were they in a position to obtain it in freehold. And if, as I "hope will prove to be the case, the means of buying land can be brought within "their reach, I am satisfied that the result will be to reduce to a minimum the "expenditure which unfortunately has now to be incurred in sending out of the "colony a considerable percentage of its immigrant population."

The views of the Governor on this subject were adopted, and on the 1st November the Immigration Agent-General was informed that no further gifts of land would be made to Indian immigrants. The total number of grants made in lieu of back passage was as follows:—

Village lots	49
Cultivation lots	69

These figures include 11 cultivation and 11 village lots granted in January and February 1883 to immigrants whose applications had been received before directions had been given to discontinue making these grants.

On the 7th November the Immigration Agent-General submitted to the Governor the following suggestions as to the sale of the land, viz., that for a cultivation lot of 2 acres the price payable should be $50, and for a village lot of ¼ acre $10, the Government agreeing to keep up the main drains and roads on consideration of a payment on the part of the settlers of a tax of $1 each per annum. This scheme was approved, and it was subsequently arranged that an immigrant taking one cultivation and one village lot, the value of which would be $60, would be required to pay only $10 on application, the balance to be paid in five annual instalments of $10. The following extracts from the Reports of the Immigration Agent-General for the years 1882, 1883, 1884, 1885 and 1886 afford information as to the manner in which this proposal was received by the immigrants:—

1882.—"It is now proposed to sell this and other abandoned properties "which have fallen into the hands of the Government, to Indian immigrants at "a price that will cover the costs of drainage and the upkeep of the roads. The "adoption of this plan will leave the immigrant free to exercise the privilege of "returning to India whenever he likes, while the Government, on the other hand, "will recoup most of the cost of drainage and road-making which threaten to "become a considerable item of the general expenditure of the future. For some "time after the sale of lots on Huis t'Dieren to Indian immigrants had been "sanctioned, no bid was made. They appeared to be somewhat staggered by the

"price, £5 per acre, alleging they could purchase lands on the neighbouring "islands for as many dollars, or about one-fifth the cost. Doubtful of the truth of "this allegation, looking to its source, I caused enquiries to be made, and have "now documentary evidence of land being sold, as stated by the immigrants, "for five dollars (£1-0-10) per acre, the first payment of twelve dollars "(£2-10) on account of the purchase of a five-acre block having been made "as far back as December 1870, the second instalment of four dollars and "fifty-six cents (£0-19) in April 1877, and the balance of eight dollars and "forty-four cents (£1-15-2) still outstanding. This, I have been given to "understand, is by no means a solitary instance of sales effected at low rates "and with most unlimited time to pay. It is true these holdings cannot "compare with Huis t'Dieren as regards drainage; but such as there is, sup- "plemented by a few rude ditches of limited extent and depth, suffices for rice "and other crops which the settlers raise. There is, moreover, no road to "maintain—always a burning question in this colony; the natural highway, the "river, offering every facility for transport either of supplies or crops. One "of the men now settled on Huis t'Dieren still farms some fourteen acres on "one of the adjoining islands, and it is due to the liberal terms offered as "regards the period over which the payment shall extend, and the knowledge "that eventually they will obtain secure titles, that immigrants have come "forward in such numbers as purchasers at so high a figure for land situated "at a distance from the centres of industry. The sales of land have again "fallen off during May and June 1883. From the 9th of February 1883 to "the 30th June, 51½ cultivation and 53 village lots have been taken by "Indian immigrants, and the first instalment of the purchase money, amounting "to $10, paid in cash. In one instance, for a particularly eligible block of four "acres containing some cocoanut trees, $100 was paid down, and the remainder "is due in two annual instalments of $150 each."

1883.—"During the first two months of the year, eleven immigrants "received free grants of land at Huis t'Dieren and Middlesex in commutation "of their rights to return passage to India at the expense of the colony. "These grants consisted of cultivation lots of two acres apiece and village lots "of half an acre each. The lands are well situated, well drained, capable of "very profitable cultivation, and similar in all respects to the land sold to "immigrants by the Colonial Government.

"It used to be said that one reason why immigrants returned to "India instead of settling permanently in the colony, was that it was difficult to "acquire small lots of land suitable for provision farms. This has been "remedied by Ordinance No. 9 of 1882, which provides that land belonging to "the colony may be transported to purchasers without previous advertisement "or delay, at small expense, and even 'without payment of any fee'; "also that in the case of Indian immigrants, the Immigration Agent-General "shall be the proper officer to sign certificates that the persons applying "to a Judge for transport of land are legally entitled thereto. Under "this ordinance 62 village lots of half an acre each and 61½ cultivation lots of "two acres each on Huis t'Dieren and Middlesex have been sold to immigrants "whose terms of service under indenture had expired. The total purchase "money of these lots is $3,665, of which $650 have been paid up.

"It is expected that the whole amount will be paid in six annual "instalments. There was also a valuable lot on Huis t'Dieren, on which "a number of fine cocoanut trees were bearing fruit, sold for $400, $100 of "which have been paid on account of the purchase. Some of the settlers applied "to the Government to be permitted to purchase a piece of ground selected by "them, on which they proposed to erect a mosque, and they have accordingly "been allowed to occupy the land for this purpose *without purchase*."

1884.—"Six cultivation and six village lots were applied for during "the year, making a total of 135½ cultivation and 117 village lots occupied. "These include 69 cultivation and 49 village lots granted in lieu of back "passage. The total purchase money of the lots sold under Ordinance 9 of 1882 "amounts to £595-16-8, of which the sum of £278-2-6 has been collected.

"This settlement was formerly under the charge of the Chief Interpreter "of the Department, who received, as Zamindar, a sum of $20 a month in "addition to his salary. As under this system the local Sub-Agent had no

" control over the management of a most important undertaking carried on " within his district, it was considered desirable to make a change, and on the " 1st May last the Interpreter, who had been acting as Superintendent, was " brought back to the Head Office and the settlement was placed under the " direct supervision of the Sub-Agent."

1885.—" There were 7 cultivation and 7 village lots applied for and sold " during the year, making a total of 142½ cultivation and 124 village lots " occupied, including 69 cultivation and 49 village lots granted in lieu of back " passage. The total purchase money of the lots sold amounts to £638-6-8, " of which the sum of £292-14-2 has been paid up.

" Towards the close of last year an application was received from several " immigrants for the purchase of thirty cultivation lots, equal to about sixty " acres, for the purpose of establishing a rice farm to be irrigated from " the 'Ituribisci' creek. The terms of sale, however, have not yet been " arranged. A Commission was recently appointed by Your Excellency to " enquire into and report on all the affairs connected with this settlement, and " to make such suggestions as might appear desirable for its future manage- " ment. While their report is under consideration, it is unnecessary for me to " deal further with this subject."

1886.—" During the year 20 cultivation and 20 village lots were purchased " by Indian immigrants, the total occupied at the close of the year being 162½ " cultivation and 144 village lots. The total purchase money of the lots sold " amounts to £1,260-8-4, of which £365-12-6 has been paid up.

" The Commission to which I alluded last year had not, at the close of " 1886, submitted their report; but it has since been received, and I trust that " there will be no delay in carrying out the recommendations contained therein."

In 1887 the charge of Huis t'Dieren was transferred from the Immigration Agent-General to the Crown Surveyor.

A number of settlements have been formed by Indian immigrants in Berbice, and the following is a statement in regard to them received from Mr. Griffin, Sub-Immigration Agent of the district:—

" Outside New Amsterdam, about one mile, is Sheet Anchor Village, formed " almost entirely of coolies who have bought lots and settled down, some " as fishermen and others cattle-owners.

" About two miles from town in same direction is Prospect, where a number " of immigrants have squatted, renting beds from plantation Canefield, building " their own houses and planting rice on a very large scale; more than 200 acres " being planted at present.

" The next settlement is No. 55 on the Corentyne, on which some " immigrants have lately settled and planted rice farms which are growing well. " No. 56 belongs to Government, and has not yet been offered for sale.

" Nos. 57, 58, 59, and 60 are all immigrant settlements lately formed, which " are doing well.

" Nos. 64, 65, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, and half of 75, are one extensive " settlement. In the last census it was ascertained there were 3,000 souls " between 64 and 75 inclusive, and of these upwards of 2,700 were immigrants, " the remainder being Chinese and blacks; the former were principally settled on " No. 72, called Hong-Kong or China Land, and the latter on half of 75, or Spring " Garden. The settlements from 67 to 75 are of long standing and very " flourishing; those from 55 to 60 are only lately taken up, and comprise immi- " grants from all parts of the colony, but they are principally from the Berbice " county.

" Another settlement was formed above Skeldon, called New Calcutta, but " this has proved a failure for want of proper sea dam and drainage."

On the 16th September 1890, Mr. im Thurn, Government Agent of the North-Western District, reported to the Government that several Indian immigrants had expressed a desire to settle in that district and to obtain grants of land in lieu of back passage. The following is a copy of his letter:—

No. 185. MORAWHANNA,

SIR, *16th September* 1890.

There are certain free East Indian immigrants settled in this district, and industriously earning for themselves a living. They are among the most

satisfactory settlers we have here; and I wish to suggest that small free grants of land should be made here to these people in place of the back passages to which they are entitled.

2. One case of this kind interests me, especially at this moment. A Madras cooly, by name Pooliah (No. 91, ex *Tartar* of 1860), who completed his term of indentured service at plantation Enmore in 1886, has settled with his wife and family on our side of the Amakooroo. He is a most industrious and ingenious man, and I would gladly see him finally settled here. He is anxious to clear and drain a small place for himself close to Morawhanna station. His is a case in which I earnestly hope that a portion of land may be given on condition of his renouncing all right to a back passage; and there are several other similar cases in the district.

3. May I ask you to call the Governor's attention, not only to this special case of Pooliah, but also to the general question raised by such cases.

I have, &c.,

EVERARD F. IM THURN, S.J.P.

In his Annual Report for 1890 he made the following reference to this subject:—"The fact that certain free East Indian immigrants have taken up "and have successfully worked land here, and the fact that others of the same "class are eager to do the same, suggests the idea, details of which I have "already laid before the Governor, that plots of free land might advantageously "be given in the North-Western District to such persons of this class as are "willing to accept the same in lieu of the back passages now due to them. I "do not suggest any costly experiment such as that at Huis t'Dieren, or that "the land should be cleared, drained, and kept up for these people; but merely "that such of these persons as are willing to accept the offer—and there are "already a good many in this position—should be given a portion of Crown "land on almost the same system as this land is sold or leased to others, except "that these East Indians would pay nothing for the land. It would be well to "arrange, for mutual protection and support, that there should be at least "several of the same nationality close together; and for this purpose it would "be necessary that these should take their land in certain places set aside for "that purpose."

These suggestions are under the consideration of the Government.

There is a disposition on the part of the immigrants to settle on Crown lands, provided the locality is one selected by themselves. The settlements in Berbice have all been formed in this manner, without any suggestion or offer being made by the Government.

The following statement shows the extent and value of Crown lands acquired by Indian immigrants:—

Name of place.	County.	Acreage.	No. of proprietors.	Value.
				$
Plantation Brighton*	Berbice ...	375	1	500
„ Cotton Tree	„ ...	1,545	1	1,500
„ Letter Kenny ...	„ ...	739⅕	2	1,000
„ Dead Tree Farm* ...	„ ...	616½	32	2,125
„ Massiah*	„ ...	222¼	24	1,250
„ Maria's Lodge* ...	Essequebo ...	½	1	50
„ Huis t'Dieren ...	„ ...	384¾	153	10,260
...		3,883⅘	214	16,685

Places marked thus* were taken over by the Government for road arrears, and re-transported to the parties after payment of same.

On the 14th January 1890, regulations were made by the Governor and Court of Policy to facilitate and encourage the acquisition of Crown lands. Under these regulations land may be purchased at the rate of one dollar per acre, whereas previously the lowest rates were five dollars per acre for forest lands more than ten miles from any public road, and ten dollars per acre for Crown lands other than above.

53. USE OF STIMULANTS AND NARCOTICS.

It cannot be said that there is much excess on the part of the East Indian immigrants as a body in the use of stimulants, although there are many of them who have fallen into that vice. This is more particularly the case with Madras immigrants, amongst whom intemperance is unfortunately rather prevalent. Drink is not, speaking generally, a source of crime among them, although occasional instances have occurred in which violent assaults owed their origin to the excitement produced by liquor. The use of stimulants is not on the increase among the East Indian population. The women, as a rule, do not drink.

Rum is not given on estates during crop time or heavy work.

Opium and ganja are more frequently the cause of lunacy than of crime. When a crime has been committed under such influences, in most cases the narcotic has been taken as a preparation for the commission of the act, to deaden all feelings of hesitation or fear, and has not been the actual cause of it.

On this subject the Immigration Agent-General in the Annual Report for 1882 wrote as follows:—

"The importation of *Cannabis* (ganja) should either be prohibited, or so "heavily penalized by increased duty as to reduce its consumption to a "minimum. Last year nearly ten tons of this noxious drug were imported. "Here, as in India, it largely influences the admissions to the Lunatic Asylum. "Dr. Grieve, the very able Director of that institution, says in the Asylum Journal "for November 1882:—'Whilst in the case of the majority of Creole patients "'admitted to the Asylum, the production of the disease can be fairly assigned "'to indulgence in alcohol, amongst the coolies alcohol plays but a secondary "'part as a cause of insanity. With them Indian hemp is the poison from the "'effects of which most of the patients suffer.' *Cannabis* is grown here, but "for some reason its narcotic influence is much diminished as compared with "the imported drug; still its toxic effects, when used in excess, are more or less "baneful, and its cultivation might be limited either by causing the growers "under penalty to take out licenses for its cultivation, or prohibiting it "altogether."

54. SALE OF OPIUM, GANJA, RUM, &c.

The sale of opium, ganja, &c., in quantities not less than 10lb. avoirdupois is subject to a license of $480 per annum, and by retail in less quantities than 10lb. avoirdupois, $20 per annum. The restrictions as to the sale of these articles, and the conditions attached to the sale thereof, are so numerous that they will be best understood by a reference to the Ordinance regulating the same, No. 4 of 1889, a copy of which is annexed.

With regard to the sale of rum, every person keeping a retail spirit shop is bound to take out a license, according to a certain classification which is fixed annually by the Excise Board, and the amount of which has to be paid by equal monthly instalments in advance. Licenses are divided into seventeen classes, viz.—

		$			$
First	class ...	7,008	Tenth	class ...	1,680
Second	,, ...	6,000	Eleventh	,, ...	1,500
Third	,, ...	5,040	Twelfth	,, ...	1,320
Fourth	,, ...	4,500	Thirteenth	,, ...	1,104
Fifth	,, ...	4,008	Fourteenth	,, ...	900
Sixth	,, ...	3,504	Fifteenth	,, ...	720
Seventh	,, ...	3,000	Sixteenth	,, ...	504
Eighth	,, ...	2,508	Seventeenth	,, ...	252
Ninth	,, ...	2,004			

The retail spirit shops are all subject to the supervision of the Chief Commissary's Department, and a check is kept on the amount of spirit sold in each during the year. Each license represents the value of the premises as a business stand, and entitles the holder to purchase out of bond, on payment of duty of 85 cents per gallon, a certain number of gallons of rum annually, the duty payable by persons not holding any such license being $2 per gallon.

The following table gives the number of gallons of rum that the holder of each class of license is entitled to take out of bond during the year under the above special provisions:—

First class	... 8,000 gallons.	Tenth class	... 1,910 gallons.
Second „	... 6,825 „	Eleventh „	... 1,700 „
Third „	... 5,725 „	Twelfth „	... 1,500 „
Fourth „	... 5,110 „	Thirteenth „	... 1,250 „
Fifth „	... 4,550 „	Fourteenth „	... 1,025 „
Sixth „	... 4,000 „	Fifteenth „	... 800 „
Seventh „	... 3,400 „	Sixteenth „	... 570 „
Eighth „	... 2,850 „	Seventeenth „	... 285 „
Ninth „	... 2,275 „		

One dollar per gallon duty has to be paid for every gallon taken out of bond over and above the quantity covered by the license.

The quantity of rum which can be sold in a retail spirit shop to any one person is limited to one gallon, and this quantity cannot be exceeded except by permission in writing of a Commissary of Taxation to sell a larger quantity to a particular person.

The two immigrants who are recorded under the heading of "Licenses" as having spirit shops, hold thirteenth class and fourteenth class licenses.

---

55. PETITION-WRITERS, VILLAGE LAWYERS, &c.

There are throughout the colony many persons who to other occupations add that of "petition-writers," or who act the part of "village lawyers." Much mischief is occasionally done through the instrumentality of such persons, for they not only mislead the immigrants by false representations and bad advice, but also at times urge them on to insubordination. Petitions rarely bear the names of the writers. On this subject the following "Notice" was first published in the *Official Gazette* on the 25th July 1849:—

Government Notice.

His Excellency the Governor has directed the republication of the following Government Notice which was published in the *Official Gazettes* of 25th July 1849, 17th July 1867, and 17th January 1874, laying down rules respecting the substitution of "MARKS" for signatures to documents, and special attention is called to these rules in order that they may be strictly observed in the future:—

"The attention of the Governor having been called to the prevalent practice of affixing to petitions marks purporting to be those of the parties whose "names are attached thereto, but unaccompanied by any authentication, and also "to the fact of the names of parties having been, in some instances, subscribed to "petitions without their knowledge, His Excellency has been pleased to direct "it to be notified, for the information of those concerned, that in future no "attention will be paid to any petition which does not conform to the following "*Rules as respects the signature:*—

"1. The marks of persons unable to write their own names must be attested "by the signature of some person of respectable character, as witness to the fact "of such marks having been made in his or her presence, and that the party or

"parties were fully aware of the objects of the documents to which their marks "are so appended.

"2. In the case of the names of parties being written for them in their "absence, the name and abode of the party assuming the power of attaching "such signatures must be written at full length and in the handwriting of "such party.

"Parties are also reminded that all petitions, as well as other official appli- "cations, whether intended for His Excellency the Governor, the Honourable "the Court of Policy, or the Combined Court, must be addressed under cover "to the Government Secretary, and forwarded to this office."

Government Secretary's Office, Guiana Public Buildings, Georgetown.
Demerara, 1st September 1882.

By command,

WILLIAM A. G. YOUNG,

Government Secretary.

The conditions of this notice have not, however, been carried into effect, and petitions are received and enquired into, whether signed or unsigned by the writers.

The frequent republication of this notice, without any insistence on a conformity with its requirements, affords evidence that it is impracticable to carry it into effect; for it might be at times dangerous to ignore representations made in a memorial, on account of the signature not being attested.

There are no "professional" false witnesses or "hangers-on about the courts," but a cooly finds no difficulty in bringing witnesses to court with him to swear to anything required.

---

56. RATIONS.

Compulsory.

The ration is a liberal one, the price charged often lower than the actual cost, and compulsory rationing is only carried on for three months, which certainly cannot be considered too long. Also extra rations are often given gratis in times of sickness or scarcity, as well as presents of tobacco, soap, kerosine oil and matches, and a big feast at Christmas. If rationing be considered necessary—and there is no doubt it is for the first few months before the cooly gets to know the place, the work, the price of food and the best place to get it—I think it would be worth while to see that the cooly really does get the food he ought; but owing to the rationing being generally left in the hands of the Portuguese or Chinese shopkeeper, it often happens that the cooly prefers to buy kerosine oil, tobacco or matches with a portion of the ration money, and of course it is a matter of complete indifference to the shopkeeper what article he sells, so long as he gets paid for it; whereas it is to his advantage, if there are more than one shop on the estate, to retain the goodwill of the cooly by letting him buy what he likes, even although he knows he ought only to sell ration food. The estate officials are responsible that the cooly gets his full rations, and more control is wanted. On some estates the authorized ration is not given for the prescribed period. Some managers appear to be unaware that the section regarding ration in the Ordinance of 1873 was repealed in 1875. In fact there is a good deal of ignorance and indifference shown in some cases as to the coolies getting their rations, and on some estates no one knew what the ration should consist of.

Scale of rations supplied for three months to new coolies, at eight cents a day.

8	oz.	rice.	2	lb.	yams, raw, or either of the following :—
3	„	dál.	2	„	plantains without husks.
1	„	ghee or cocoanut oil.	2	„	sweet potatoes.
¾	„	massala.	2	„	tannias.
2	„	sugar.	2	„	cassava.
			1	„	wheat flour.
			2	„	corn meal.

Flour is generally given, being more convenient and preferred by the coolies.

N.B.—As a rule rations supplied occasionally to older coolies, and rations to pregnant women, are not charged for. On some estates nothing is charged for rations, cooking utensils, etc. On other estates rations are free during the first and last week of the three months. On some estates coolies who earn above a certain sum in the week receive free rations, and those who earn less are made to pay for their rations.

On some estates good allotments, *i.e.* allotments containing a fair proportion of good workers, get free rations, while those who earn small wages are charged for rations.

On some estates all rations are charged for, unless the coolies receiving them are not working, or not working for enough to pay for rations.

Extra morning rations.—On estates in the rivers and creeks a morning ration of—

Bread	...	4 oz.
Hot milk	...	1 pint
or		
Sugar, tea	...	1 pint.
Quinine	...	1 to 5 grains, usually 3 grains,

is given for six months after allotment to new coolies the first thing in the morning, and is not charged for.

---

57. CASTE.

Caste is not only modified, but its laws and restrictions are practically ignored after the immigrants leave Calcutta. The only indications of it in this colony are found in the reluctance of high caste immigrants to work under drivers of a lower caste, and in the respect paid to immigrants of high caste and the influence exercised by them. Members of the Chattri, Rajput and Thakur class frequently get married to or form connections with women of a lower class.

In regard to the value of the members of the different castes as labourers, Mr. R. W. S. Mitchell, when Immigration Agent-General of this colony, introduced into his Annual Report for 1881 the following list, which he gave as embodying "the results of several years experience in selecting emigrants at Calcutta," prepared at his request by the Superintendent of the Trinidad Depôt, Babu Grish Chunder Ghose. In a note at the foot of the list, he remarks that "the spelling of the names is by a Bengali, and not according to Forbes":—

BEST LABOURERS.

Koyree.	Meorao.	Sowtal.	Durkur.
Koormee.	Mehtter.	Lodh.	Koree.
Chamar.	Mooneah.	Kenrah.	Koonbee.
Dosaud.	Moosaher.	Pode.	Rajbhur.
Tailee.	Bagdee.	Tewor.	Dhanook.
Bhoomiz.	Sutgope.	Chundul.	Kissun.
Bhur.	Koybutto.	Dome.	Gooria.
Keot.	Aheer.	Keal.	Thappa.
Kachee.	Gowar.	Dungur.	Bauree.
			Chatowar.

GOOD LABOURERS.	FAIRLY GOOD.	INDIFFERENT.	WORTHLESS.
Kahar.	Bhoochur.	Hazam.	Beneah.
Koomor.	Mussulman.	Dheoniah.	Brahmin.
Chuttree.	Khurtick.	Pauhiree.	Kaet.
Tamoolee.	Garraree.	Nekuree.	Sonar.
Jat.	Malla.	Choorchur.	Jogee.
Goojur.	Barrae.	Lahayra.	Bhat.
Lohur.	Passee.	Tantowa.	Jolla.
Kalowar.	Agoore.	Halowayee.	Boyeddo.
Rajowar.	Bhurbhooja.	Kooloo.	Gossoye.
Khugee.	Auruck.	Dhobee.	Autit.
	Tantee.	Keechundee.	Fukeer.
	Agree.	Mewatttee.	Khetree.
	Boyhena.		

The objection to the importation of coolies of high caste, such as Chattris, Thakur, &c., arose not from any unfitness on their part for agricultural labour, but from the pernicious use made by them of their influence over other immigrants. As a general rule, in all strikes involving insubordination or threatened disturbances, the instigators are coolies of high caste who, however, do not appear prominently in the matter, other immigrants being put forward and made to figure as leaders. The special circumstances which gave rise to

the instructions issued to Mr. Mitchell in regard to high caste immigrants were connected with a strike at plantation Versailles, the ostensible cause of which was the price of work assigned, but which was proved to have been instigated by some high caste immigrants to conceal the murder of a driver named Somaroo of inferior caste. In his report on this case, Mr. Gallagher, Inspector of Police, made the following remarks:—"I find that our best and most intelli-"gent cooly policemen are utterly useless in detecting or getting any useful "information about the horrible crime and its real motive, which, to my mind, "shows plainly that when a high caste immigrant is involved in a crime, no "immigrant of any caste is inclined to give evidence against him, be he police-"man or indentured labourer or freeman, which again fully shows the influence "of caste for evil; and it has been often demonstrated how intelligently cooly "policemen in this colony very cleverly detected and got up successful "evidence to gain convictions in most mysterious murders, simply because the "parties on both sides of the crime were of low caste. Only for the valuable "services of police constable Davidson" (a black man) "I could not possibly "have brought the investigation of these crimes at Versailles to such a satisfac-"tory conclusion."

This report, supported by a memorandum of the Sub-Immigration Agent of the district, who entirely concurred in the remarks of the Inspector, led to instructions being given to the Emigration Agent not to recruit high caste coolies. Praying Brahmins are supported by the contributions of their people. They also frequently make their "god-children" work for them.

Fakirs and Sadus live by begging, and appear to find their occupation not only congenial, but profitable. These classes are not very numerous.

Muhammadans do not, as a rule, give trouble.

---

58. AMUSEMENTS.

The immigrants find great pleasure in congregating round a Mulla or Pandit, listening to the tales or sacred books read by him. On Sundays visits are exchanged between the immigrants residing on different estates, and dinners are frequently given by the more wealthy, at which from 100 to 150 persons are present, and, seated in the yard, are served with rice and curry on plantain leaves.

The immigrants also amuse themselves with athletic exercises, dancing, singing, playing the flute and the *saringa* or native guitar, beating their drums, &c.

Race days afford them great enjoyment, and they flock to the course in great numbers.

The great event of the year, however, is the celebration of the Muharram, which, in this country, has degenerated into a period of dissipation, the evil effects of which on the immigrants led to this celebration being as much as possible discouraged on the estates. On this subject, the Commissioners of 1870 made the following remarks:—"Except as an excuse for holidays "and excesses, it has nothing to commend it in this county; and all that can "be said in its favour, as an exotic, is that it is far preferable to the 'Hoolie,' "which they might more appropriately have introduced. The anomalous "character of the festival may be appreciated when it is remembered that the "Muharram is a strictly Muhammadan anniversary which is here professedly "celebrated by all East Indians, among whom the Hindus predominate. If it "be found impossible to make the celebration orderly, it would probably be "found that it could be put down without much difficulty."

The Tajia festival was for many years a source of great disturbance and breaches of the peace amounting to riots. Rural processions from different estates were accustomed to proceed to the nearest town, and were joined not only by Muhammadans, but by every section of the male population, including Hindus, Negros and others. If two of these processions met, a free fight was usually the result, and many deaths have been caused in endeavouring to suppress by armed force these lawless assemblies inflamed by drink and insanity which possesses an excited crowd. Lamentable instances will be remembered as having occurred at San Fernando in Trinidad and at Zorlen in Surinam. For many years in this colony the Tajia festival has been controlled by laws forbidding the procession to leave the estate, and having no opportunity for display, the processions have

died a natural death, and the coolies have lost to a great extent their interest in the anniversary. On some estates the expenses of this festival are collected and the tajia or bier built by the estates, as it was found that the money if collected by headmen or drivers, as they are still called, was often misappropriated.

Conducted as the arrangements always are in accordance with the regulations framed under Ordinance 16 of 1869, there is never any disturbance. These regulations were, in 1886, translated and printed in Nagri, Kaithi and Urdu, and copies were distributed to all the estates.

The following is a copy of the regulations :—

GOVERNMENT NOTICE.

"In accordance with the provisions of Ordinance No. 16 of 1869, His "Excellency the Governor directs the publication of the following regulations "to be observed during the celebration of the festival called 'Tadjah.'

"The Indian immigrants living on a plantation, intending to celebrate the "festival called 'Tadjah,' must choose from amongst themselves a certain "number of headmen, not exceeding six in number, whose duty it will be to "regulate, control and take charge of all processions, and to carry out such "instructions as they may receive either from the Magistrate of the district in "which the plantation is situated, or from the Police, for the purpose of "preventing breaches of the peace, or other disorderly conduct, during the "celebration of the festival.

"The names of the men selected to act as headmen, and also the day or "days on which the festival is to be held, must be sent in to the Magistrate of "the district by the headmen not less than fifteen days before the date fixed "for the celebration; and the Magistrate, should he see no objection, will grant "to the immigrants a written authority for holding the festival, and will "define the route the procession of the Tadjah must take, and the limits of "the route, and will give such other instructions as he may deem needful for "the preservation of good order.

"Should the immigrants on one or more estates desire to unite in the "celebration of the festival, such intention must be communicated to the "Magistrate in the manner before mentioned in regard to the single estate, and "the selection of the headmen must be made conjointly by the immigrants in "the estates so united.

"No 'Tadjah' processions will be permitted to enter the precincts eith- "of the city of Georgetown or of the town of New Amsterdam.

"In case any Tadjah procession shall pass along any public road, it will be "the duty of the headmen to regulate the march of the procession so that no "obstruction be caused to the general public; and, in order to ensure this as far "as possible, no such procession must be permitted to occupy more than half "the width of the road, and must confine its march to the left half of the road.

"No procession will be permitted unnecessarily to linger on any public road, "or to form itself in group so as to obstruct the free passage of the public.

"During the march of any Tadjah procession along a public road, it will "be the duty of the headmen, in case of its meeting with, or overtaking, any "carriage, waggon, cart or other vehicle drawn by any horse or other animal, "or any person riding on any horse or mule, or any animals being led or driven, "to cause all noises to cease, whether arising from the beating of drums, the "playing on musical instruments, the singing or shouting of the persons forming "the procession, or from any other cause under the control of the headmen, "during such time as any portion of the procession shall be within a distance of "50 yards from any such vehicle or animals as before mentioned.

"Every headman and every immigrant taking part in any Tadjah procession, who shall wilfully disregard any of the above regulations or shall wilfully "disobey any orders or instructions given by the Magistrate of the district, or the "Police, in virtue of these regulations, shall be held guilty of an offence, and, on "conviction thereof, will be liable to be imprisoned with or without hard labour "for any term not exceeding six months, or to pay a penalty not exceeding 96 "dollars, as provided by the 5th section of Ordinance No. 16 of 1869."

Guiana Public Buildings, Demerara, 19th January 1871.

By command,

J. M. GRANT,
Government Secretary.

The Madras immigrants on certain occasions, especially at weddings and christenings, have entertainments consisting of very effective theatrical performances, representing various episodes in the ancient history of India.

The Creoles are very fond of playing cricket, marbles and other games usual among the rest of the population of the colony.

---

59. HOLIDAYS AND FESTIVALS.

Besides the holidays allowed the coolies for the celebration of the Muharram, there are also the public holidays, viz., New Year's Day, Easter Monday, Whit-Monday, the first Monday in August, Christmas Day and the day following.

Race days are also practically holidays for the immigrants residing on estates in the vicinity of the spot where the races are held.

There are two race meetings in Georgetown and two at Belfield each year.

---

60. MEDICAL TREATMENT OF IMMIGRANTS.

Medical and Sanitary.—I have many notes of the visits I paid to hospitals in every part of the colony, and to describe them and the system of medical attendance would be only a recapitulation of the medical ordinances in force, and which are given in Part 7 of the Immigration Ordinance of 1891. Many of the estate hospitals are built and maintained on a scale which would be a credit to any large county town in England, and are far superior to the ordinary charitable dispensary met with in India.

Medical treatment of free coolies.—My enquiries on this subject resulted from some observations I made in Trinidad, where the estate hospitals are reserved more exclusively for indentured coolies, and the right of free coolies residing on the estate or in its neighbourhood to medical treatment is not always recognized; but the custom varies much on different estates, and the more liberal managers allow not only the free immigrants working for them and residing on the estate, but also the coolies and Creole population of the neighbouring villages, to free treatment in the estate hospitals. In other cases, which will no doubt be remembered, in Trinidad this was not done, and free coolies were either not admitted into hospital, or had to pay for their medical treatment there. In British Guiana no such doubt exists, and every one employed by the estate, whether cooly or Creole, which includes Negroes, Portuguese and Chinese, is entitled to free medical attendance.

Unindentured immigrants are not by law entitled to admission into and treatment in an estate's hospital; but this privilege has always been given to them by their employers, and not only to them, but also to other free labourers resident and working on the estates. This practice is not a recent one, but was carried out previous to 1873, at the time that the medical men were employed by the proprietors, and not by the Government.

This is made evident by the fact that in 1873, when the medical men were made Government officers, they received instructions that they were to attend *all labourers* on the estates, who were sent to the hospitals for treatment. In a circular letter, No. 1755, dated the 20th September 1873, addressed by the Government Secretary to the District Medical Officers, the following passage conveyed directions on this point:—"The attention of the Government having "been called to certain points in connection with the execution by Medical "Officers of their duties in attending estates, I am directed to point out to you "that in appointing District Medical Officers who should be paid by the "Government, and not by the proprietary body as hitherto, it was intended "that the medical attendance to which estates had been accustomed should be "continued, and that those labourers who were employed on estates, *and, in "practice, were sent to the estate's hospital,* should be treated in the same manner "as immigrant labourers."

Again, in another circular letter, No. 1949, dated the 29th June 1875, the Government Secretary wrote as follows:—"It has been brought to the "notice of the Governor that in some districts the Medical Officers have refused "to give medical attendance, as part of their duty, to the class of persons "attached to estates, other than immigrants, who, *previously to the 1st July* "1873, *received medical aid from the medical attendant employed by the estate.*

"The Governor directs me to observe that in making, in the year 1873, "the changes in the position of the medical attendants of estates, whereby they "became District Medical Officers, it was not the intention of the Govern-"ment to withdraw from the estates, or from the residents thereon other than

"immigrants, any part of the medical attendance previously given at the cost "of the estates.

"The Governor, therefore, requests that you will understand that it is your "duty to give the same amount of medical aid to persons attached to the "estates within your district, other than immigrants, as was given by the "medical attendants on estates prior to the 1st July 1873."

This circular was issued by order of the Governor in consequence of one of the District Medical Officers having raised the question as to whether he was required to attend the Creole population on the estate.

The Secretary of State, to whom this circular was communicated by the Governor, made the following remarks in regard to it:—"I fully approve the "instructions you have issued to the District Medical Officers, and can only "regret that the necessity for giving them should have arisen."

From these extracts it is clear, first, that employers have always admitted free labourers into their hospitals; secondly, that the medical men were always required to give them medical attendance; and thirdly, that the Government Medical Officers have been required to continue to do the same as part of their duty, and without any extra remuneration.

The Government Medical Officers receive $80 per annum from each estate in their districts for attendance on the managers and overseers. This arrangement was communicated to the Medical Officers in the circular letter No. 1755, dated 30th September 1873, in the following terms:—"It was also, at the time "of the passing of the Immigration Ordinance, agreed upon that in considera- "tion of their general medical attendance on the managers and overseers, and "other resident officers above the grade of labourer, the medical officers were "to receive a fee, which was fixed at $80, as being, on the average, reasonable "remuneration, and which was publicly discussed without any objection being "taken as to its amount."

This arrangement, after being submitted to the Secretary of State, was confirmed by another circular letter, No. 2585, dated the 26th September 1873, addressed by the Government Secretary to the District Medical Officers.

The following statement shows the number of cases in which unindentured immigrants were admitted into the estates' hospitals for treatment during the ten years 1880 to 1889, both inclusive:—

Year.	Number of cases treated.		
	Indentured.	Unindentured.	
		Immigrants.	Others.
1880 ...	73,774	25,760	6,018
1881 ...	81,047	28,384	6,465
1882 ...	80,928	32,367	6,804
1883 ...	73,325	39,824	8,693
1884 ...	55,870	32,883	7,557
1885 ...	48,048	25,695	5,354
1886 ...	60,290	36,173	5,769
1887 ...	49,107	25,560	1,587
1888 ...	44,878	27,055	2,063
1889 ...	43,851	29,366	2,508

In April 1876, the attorney of Plantation Eliza and Mary forwarded a letter to the Immigration Agent-General, in which he complained that the District Medical Officer refused to attend free immigrants sent to hospital by the manager, and in that letter he made the following remark:—"I think that "if the estate is willing to supply the free resident coolies with medicine, food "and attendance in hospital, the least that the Government could do would be "to make the District Medical Officer prescribe for them."

This complaint of the attorney was submitted to the Governor, and he at once directed that the District Medical Officer should be informed that it was his duty to attend professionally all the labourers, "whether cooly or Creole, "whether indentured or unindentured, resident on the sugar estates in his "district, without any fee beyond his salary."

Dr. Watt, the Medical Officer to the Immigration Department, in his Annual Report for the year 1877, remarked as follows:—"I would direct "particular attention to the large number of Creoles, Barbadians, Portu- "guese and others, who receive medical aid and hospital relief from the "estates' hospitals. These people receive the same treatment and atten- "tion as the indentured immigrants, when in hospital. It is pleasing to " have to record this fact, as I think it a proof of the liberality and consideration "everywhere bestowed on those who have no legal claim thereto."

Mr. Crosby, Immigration Agent-General, in forwarding this report to the Government Secretary, wrote as follows:—"The report of Dr. Watt is highly " satisfactory. It shows great liberality on the part of the proprietors of estates "by allowing all labourers on the estates, whether under indenture or other- "wise, to partake of the hospital accommodation and treatment, and that there "is, in fact, hospital accommodation on the estates in the colony for more " than double the number of immigrants under indenture of service."

This liberality on the part of the proprietors drew from Mr. Mitchell, Immigration Agent-General, the following remark in forwarding the Medical Officer's Report for 1882:—"It may also be observed that among the cases quoted "as the longest under treatment, there are several persons who were not inden- " tured servants, and who were carefully nursed and tended, in some instances "for nearly two years, while suffering from chronic and incurable ailments. It "is a feature not to be lost sight of, that proprietors of estates in this colony " rarely seek to shift the responsibility and expense contingent on such cases to " the broader shoulders of the Government." Again, Mr. Mitchell, in his Annual Report for the year 1881, wrote as follows:—"The right of unindentured "Indian immigrants to hospital accommodation is not clearly defined by Act "VII of 1873. But they receive precisely the same care and attention as the "contract servant. As a rule, they are unwilling to resort to the estates' "hospitals, except when compelled by severe illness, and prefer treatment as "out-patients, the routine and discipline of the hospital proving irksome. The "proportion of unindentured immigrants to those under contract who apply "for admission to estates' hospitals, is in the ratio of one to five, as far as I have "been able to compute. . . . . Hospitals are erected here more on the "scale of public institutions than private infirmaries, and are resorted to by "Creoles, Portuguese and Europeans," etc.

GOVERNMENT SECRETARY'S OFFICE.

Circular No. 1949. *29th June* 1875.

SIR,

It has been brought to the notice of the Governor that in some directs the Medical Officers have refused to give medical attendance as part of their duty, to the class of persons attached to the estates, other than immigrants, who, previously to the 1st July 1873, received medical aid from the medical attendant employed by the estate.

2. The Governor directs me to observe that in making, in the year 1873, the changes in the position of the medical attendants of estates, whereby they became District Medical Officers, it was not the intention of the Government to withdraw fron the estates, or from the residents thereon other than immigrants, any part of the medical attendance previously given at the cost of the estates.

3. The Governor, therefore, requests that you will understand that it is your duty to give the same amount of medical aid to persons attached to the estates within your district, other than immigrants, as was given by the medical attendants to estates prior to the 1st July 1873.

4. This instruction is not intended to affect the arrangements in force under which you receive a special remuneration of $80 per annum from the proprietors of estates.

I have the honour to be,
Sir,
Your obedient servant,
WILLIAM A. G. YOUNG.

To all District Medical Officers.

DUTIES OF MEDICAL OFFICERS UNDER MEDICAL SCHEME OF 1873.

GOVERNMENT SECRETARY'S OFFICE.

3rd July 1873.

Circular No. 1103.

SIR,

I have the honour, by direction of the Administrator, to transmit to you the accompanying copy of the Immigration Ordinance, 1873, and to intimate to you that it is expected that you will, without loss of time, make yourself acquainted with those provisions which refer to the office of District Medical Officer.

I am to inform you that, in addition to the services required from you under the Immigration Ordinance, it will be your duty, so soon as the contemplated local dispensaries can be established, to visit and supervise these institutions, at some of which the Medical Officer will have to attend at stated periods to meet patients who may assemble at them for his professional advice and medical treatment, and at others he will have the assistance of a resident and duly qualified dispenser, who will, under the Medical Officer's instruction and supervision, treat common ailments.

As the cost of medical assistance is now wholly beyond the means of a large portion of the poorer classes of the community, His Excellency proposes that rules should be laid down hereafter for your observance in the treatment of patients at these dispensaries, and that there should be fixed a scale of fees to be received by you for advice and medicines for patients in the humbler walks of life, who, while capable of defraying some small charge for medical treatment, are unable to pay the customary professional charges.

I am to urge you to use every exertion for diffusing the benefits of vaccination throughout your entire district, and to instruct you to furnish the Medical Officer to the Department with a half-yearly return, showing the number of persons vaccinated by you, and the number of cases in which the effect was successful. It is admitted that the supply of lymph is at present very inadequate for this purpose, but measures will be taken for supplementing it as largely as may be practicable.

You will be required to attend any gaol, district prison or lock-up, and police hospital daily, also the police and paupers in your district, as well as to give evidence in any criminal proceedings, and to attend the infliction of corporal punishment without any further remuneration for such service. In cases of severe illness, more frequent attendance will, of course, be required. You will cause the medicines to be supplied with the same economy which you would have observed in furnishing them out of the allowance hitherto made to you, and will certify an account against the colony for the same.

You will, however, continue to receive, subject to the reservation provided in clause 14, the remuneration allowed to medical practitioners under Ordinance 25, of 1861, for attending to give evidence at a coroner's inquest, and for making *post-mortem* examinations instituted at the direction of the coroner.

I am to point out to you that you are liable to be moved from one district to another, as the Governor may from time to time think expedient, and that in the event of any Medical Officer being guilty of conduct which, in the case of an ordinary public servant, would lead to his suspension, he will not, in his very responsible position, be entitled to claim all the formalities laid down in the Colonial Regulations, but will be liable to immediate removal from office by the Governor, from whose act the usul privilege of appeal to the Secretary of State will be open to the officer.

You will be entitled to leave of absence, but only on half salary, in terms of the Colonial Regulations, and provision has been made for three supernumerary Surgeons at low salaries, who will be able to take charge of a district during the absence on leave of its Medical Officer, and will receive the other half of the salary attached to the district.

You will be subject to the provisions of the Superannuation and Widows, and Orphans' Fund Ordinances.

In the execution of your duties generally, and of those under the Immigration Ordinance more particularly, you will be responsible to and under the directions of the Medical Officer to the Immigration Department. In matters connected with the police and lock-ups, you will place yourself in accord with the Police Department, and in your visits to, and attendance at, the county gaols or district prisons, you will be guided by the Prison Regulations.

I have the honour to be,

SIR,

Your obedient servant,

E. N. WALKER,

Acting Government Secretary.

To all District Medical Officers.

OBLIGATIONS OF DISTRICT MEDICAL OFFICERS WITH REGARD TO ATTENDANCE ON PERSONS EMPLOYED ON ESTATES, OTHER THAN IMMIGRANT LABOURERS.

GOVERNMENT SECRETARY'S OFFICE,

20*th September* 1873.

Circular No. 1755.

SIR,

The attention of the Government having been called to certain points in connection with the execution by Medical Officers of their duties in attending estates, I am directed to point out to you that in appointing District Medical Officers who should be paid by Government, and not by the proprietary body, as hitherto, it was intended that the medical attendance to which estates had been accustomed should be continued, and that those labourers who were employed on estates and, in practice, were sent to the estate's hospital, should be treated in the same manner as immigrant labourers.

It was also, at the time of the passing of the Immigration Ordinance, agreed upon that in consideration of their general medical attendance on the managers, overseers, and other resident officers above the grade of labourer, the Medical Officers were to receive a fee which was fixed at $80 as being, on an average, reasonable remuneration, and was publicly discussed without any ojection being taken as to its amount.

I am, however, to add that in the absence of any record of an understanding between the Medical Officers and the Government as to their position on these points, and in consequence of a communication from the Medical Officer to the Immigration Department as to the inadequacy of the proposed remuneration for attendance on the managers, overseers, and other staff of the estate, the Administrator has referred the matter to Governor Scott through the Secretary of State.

I am at the same time to convey to you the expression of His Excellency's confidence that there will be no relaxation in your professional services when required on estates.

I have the honour to be,

SIR,

Your obedient servant,

E. N. WALKER,

Government Secretary.

To all District Medical Officers.

GOVERNMENT SECRETARY'S OFFICE,
26th December 1873.

Circular No. 2585.

SIR,

I am directed by the Administrator to inform you, with reference to my circular of the 20th of September last, that the Secretary of State has intimated the result of his communication with Governor Scott with regard to the professional duties expected of the District Medical Officers by the representatives of estates.

His Lordship confirms the views expressed in the first paragraph of that circular, respecting the obligations of the District Medical Officers to attend all labourers employed on estates.

As to the remuneration of the District Officers for medical attendance on the managers and overseers and their families as well as the staff, His Lordship as expressed an opinion that the Medical Officers have no reason to complain of their position, and that they should be required to render ordinary medical services to the employés of an estate for the fee which was fixed as at an average of $80 per annum.

I am also directed, in communicating to you the decision of the Secretary of State on these points, to convey to you the expression of His Excellency's hope that the Medical Service will endeavour faithfully and willingly to give effect to it, and that there will be no want of harmony between yourself and the representatives of the estates under your charge.

I have the honour to be,
SIR,
Your obedient servant,
E. N. WALKER,
Government Secretary.

To all District Medical Officers.

---

61. JOINT HOSPITALS.

Under Ordinance 7 of 1873 "no joint hospital for two or more plantations "and no hospital which is not situated upon the plantation for which it is "intended shall be allowed without a certificate in its favour from the Medical "Officer to the Department, and no such certificate shall be given without "special permission of the Immigration Agent-General."

There are no joint hospitals, except in connection with estates which have been amalgamated.

During the ten years ended 31st December last, fifteen estates were amalgamated with other estates, viz.—

Goldstone Hall with Adelphi.
Industry with Bel Air.
Farm with Diamond.
Vreed-en-Hoop with Windsor Forest.
Anna Catharina with Leonora.
De Willem and Zeeburg with Uitvlugt.
Zeelugt with Tuschen de Vrienden.
Waterloo with Maryville.
Johanna Cecilia with Golden Fleece.
Hoff-van-Aurich with L'Union.
Columbia and Affiance with Taymouth Manor.
Land of Plenty with Reliance.
La Belle Alliance with Anna Regina.

On nine of these there are joint hospitals, viz.—
Goldstone Hall and Adelphi.
Anna Catharina and Leonora.
De Willem and Zeeburg and Uitvlugt.
Zeelugt and Tuschen-de-Vrienden.
Waterloo and Maryville.
Hoff-van-Aurich and L'Union.
Columbia and Affiance and Taymouth Manor.
Land of Plenty and Reliance.
La Belle Alliance and Anna Regina.

Three estates were abandoned, viz., Smythfield, Richmond Hill, and Endeavour. The first of these was bought by a Chinaman, who is a well-to-do shopkeeper in New Amsterdam. The manager's house is now rented by the Government as a temporary Alms House, and the land is to be sold off in lots. The second and third are rented out to farmers.

The acreage in sugar cultivation is larger now than in 1880, being 79,243 acres on 31st December 1890, as against 77,959 acres on 31st December 1880.

---

62. MEDICAL AND SANITARY.

Mortality and sickness among immigrants.—Med. Report 87.—Mortality among indentured immigrants, 25·4 per 1,000. When it is borne in mind that indentured immigrants are all of the working age, exclusive of children and aged people, the rate is one admitting of diminution. Death-rate of males indentured, 21·2 per 1,000. Females indentured, 28·1. Unindentured males, 28·4, including children and old people, compares favourably with that of the general population. West coast, Demerara, 15·6, Demerara River District, 32·2.

Extract from the Report of the Surgeon-General for 1889.

Statistics of Mortality and Sickness amongst Indentured Immigrants.

According to the medical returns, the death-rate amongst indentured immigrants residing on estates was 12·57 per 1,000 of the population (males 11·59, females 14·83); adding 1·3 per 1,000 for deaths of indentured immigrants in public institutions, it makes the rate 13·87, against 20·83 in 1888, showing the very large decrease of 7 per 1,000. That this was not to any great extent dependent upon an improvement affecting all classes is shown by the fact that the difference between 1889 and 1888 in this respect was little over 1 per 1,000, in 1888 the general death-rate of the colony was 29·27 per 1,000, in 1889 28·13 per 1,000. The very great reduction in the immigrant death-rate may be due in a considerable measure to the reduction that has taken place in the mortality amongst immigrants during their first year of residence, or in what has been considered the most dangerous period of their acclimatization. The death-rate of the immigrants arriving in the season 1888-89 for their first year of residence was 18 per 1,000, including the mortality on all estates to which they were allotted. Though over the general rate of indentured immigrants for the year, this is less than the general rate amongst indentured immigrants for any preceding year, and very much lower than the rate amongst new immigrants of any other season. Not only was the general rate less, but the great mortality which has hitherto been not uncommon on estates usually looked upon as specially unhealthy, did not occur. On the estate on which the mortality was highest the rate was not one-third of the maximum of previous years. On nine estates only the rate was over the average of 18 per 1,000, whilst in 40 it was under, and on many of these there was no death amongst this class of immigrants. Such a state of matters is no doubt due in considerable measure to the improved sanitary conditions under which the immigrants are housed, but it also greatly depends on increased care and attention given to the feeding of the people on estates in river or markedly malarious districts. It is hoped that a like condition will continue, and that the acclimatization of the East Indian may be accomplished in future without entailing extra suffering or loss of life. In connection with the mortality amongst indentured immigrants, the following statement showing the changes of late years may prove of interest:—

Year.	Death-rate of indentured immigrants on estates.	Death-rate of unindentured immigrants on estates.	Death-rate of colony generally.
1885 ...	25·3	18·7	29·52
1886 ...	27·4	16·	25·56
1887 ...	23·2	20·2	32·41
1888 ...	19·73	16·01	29·27
1889 ...	12·57	17·78	28·13

Estates' Hospitals—General Statistics.

	Indentured immigrants.			Unindentured immigrants.			Others.			Total.		
	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.
In-patients treated ...	33,112	10,739	43,851	19,175	10,191	29,366	1,520	988	2,508	53,807	21,918	75,725
In-patients died ...	141	77	218	542	332	874	84	57	141	767	466	1,233
Percentage of in-patients died	·4	·7	·5	2·8	3·2	2·9	5·5	5·7	5·6	1·4	2·1	1·6
Out-patients treated ...	7,379	3,324	10,703	12,514	7,691	20,205	2,028	1,966	3,994	21,921	12,981	34,902
Out-patients died ...	...	1	1	14	15	29	28	20	8	42	36	78

Sickness and Mortality in Estates' Hospitals, as compared to the population.

Locality.	Sickness per 100 of population.		Mortality per 1,000 of population.	
	Indentured immigrants.	Unindentured immigrants.	Indentured immigrants.	Unindentured immigrants.
Berbice	262	46·23	15·92	16·58
East Coast, Demerara ...	226	37·00	10·38	15·29
Demerara River	370	98·55	13·70	26·27
West Coast, Demerara ...	188	67·99	8·23	14·73
Islands	189	41·27	10·57	19·52
Arab Coast	221	59·06	15·82	19·40
Total ...	252	55·80	12·57	17·78

Sickness and Mortality in Estates' Hospitals as compared to the population, in relation to the sexes.

Condition.	Sickness per 100 of population.			Mortality per 1,000 of population.		
	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.
Indentured ...	272	207	252	11·59	14·88	12·57
Unindentured ...	58·2	51·8	55·7	17·61	18·03	17·78

Diseases treated in Estates' Hospitals, with resulting mortality.

	Diseases.	No. indoor.	Cases.	Deaths.
	I.—General Diseases.			
Subdivision A.	Intermittent fever		33,888	134
	Febricula		811	4
	Remittent fever		557	22
	Simple continued fever		287	...
	Bilious remittent		170	11
	Malarial fever		236	...
	Malignant or pernicious fever		21	2
	Measles		22	1
	Vaccinia		37	1
	Varicella		42	1
	Scrofula		1	...
	Influenza		159	...
Subdivision B.	Acute rheumatism		632	4
	Chronic ,,		487	1
	Syphilitic ,,		86	2
	Gonorrhœal ,,		84	...
	Primary syphilis		338	4
	Secondary ,,		208	4
	Congenital ,,		60	5
	Cancer		22	3
	,, of liver		1	...
	Tuberculosis		81	2
	Anæmia		344	4
	Leprosy		17	2
	Rabies		2	...
	Mumps		21	...
	Erysipelas		48	...
	Pyæmia		4	...
	Septicæmia		6	4
	Malarial cachexia		1	...
	Uræmia		5	2
	II.—Local Diseases.			
1 Nervous system.	Vertigo		100	2
	Headache		175	...
	Meningitis		67	14
	Cerebral hemorrhage		27	8
	,, congestion		13	5
	,, softening		1	...
	,, abscess		9	...
	Sunstroke		6	1
	Effusion of brain		1	1
	Hemiplegia		15	1
	Paraplegia		7	...
	Local Paralysis		15	1
	Hydrocephalus		13	...
	Epilepsy		74	3
	Chorea		7	1
	Convulsons		274	103
	Neuralgia		100	6
	Apoplexy		7	...
	Lumbago		168	3
	Sciatica		34	2
	Tetanus, traumatic		37	8
	,, idiopathic		26	
	Cephalgia		5	...
	Trismus neonatorum		3	1
	Unsound mind		1	...
	Hysteria		24	1
	Melancholia		1	...
	Mania		16	...
	Dementia		9	...
	Delirium tremens		4	...
	Locomotor ataxia		13	...
	Other spinal diseases		9	...
	Peripheral neuritis		6	...
	Nervous shock		31	...
	Other nervous diseases		31	1

	Diseases.	No. indoor.	Cases.	Deaths.
2 Eye.	Conjunctivitis		274	...
	Stye		1	...
	Keratitis		47	...
	Sclerotitis		3	...
	Syphilitic keratitis		11	...
	Iritis		55	...
	Syphilitic iritis		13	...
	Corneal ulcer		56	1
	Granular ophthalmia		71	...
	Pterygium		15	...
	Corneal opacity		2	...
	Injuries		24	...
	Cataract		12	...
	Glaucoma		2	...
	Retinitis		3	...
	Foreign body eye		1	...
	Optic nerve blindness		2	...
	Hemeralopia		2	...
	Contusion of eye		1	...
	Other eye diseases		29	...
3 Ear.	Abscess of meatus		16	
	Catarrh ,,		79	...
	,, ,, middle ear		51	...
	Ulcer of tympanum		7	...
	Otalgia		2	...
	Septic inflam. of middle ear		18	...
	Otorrhœa		5	1
	Deafness		10	...
4 Nose.	Epistaxis		8	...
	Polypus		7	...
	Injuries		1	...
	Ulceration		9	...
5 Circulatory system.	Pericarditis		18	
	Endocarditis		5	...
	Septic do.		10	...
	Valvular disease		81	...
	Syncope		21	...
	Functional heart disease		65	...
	Aneurism aorta		7	...
	,, others		1	...
	Nœvus		19	...
	Angeioma		12	...
	Embolism		27	...
	Varicose veins		4	...
	Phlebitis		6	...
	Atheroma		2	...
	Cyanosis		...	...
	Hemorrhage		14	...
6 Respiratory system.	Nasal catarrh		691	...
	Laryngitis		58	...
	Bronchitis		3,068	...
	Bronchial catarrh		2,350	...
	Capillary bronchitis		544	...
	Pneumonia, acute		728	...
	,, chronic		65	...
	,, epidemic		7	...
	Phthisis, acute tubercular		344	...
	,, chronic pneumonic		234	...
	Pleurisy		128	...
	Congestion of lungs		5	...
	Pleurodynia		52	...
	Asthma		363	...
	Pertussis		212	...
	Croup		97	...

Diseases treated in Estates' Hospitals, with resulting mortality.

	Diseases.	No. indoor.	Cases.	Deaths.
7 Digestive system.	Apthæ		77	
	Gumboil		51	
	Herpes oris		19	
	Stomatitis		84	
	Morbid dentition		61	
	Dental caries		102	
	Tonsillitis		51	
	Pharyngitis		332	
	Pharyngeal abscess		12	
	Gastric catarrh		51	
	Gastralgia		67	
	Flatulency		1	
	Gastritis		23	
	Dyspepsia		1	
	Gastric ulcer		15	
	Enteritis		116	
	Intestinal obstruction		35	
	„ ulcerations		6	
	Septic diarrhœa		367	
	Simple „		2,515	
	Choleraic „		500	
	Dysentery		2,100	
	Colic		680	7
	Hemorrhoids		67	1
	Anal fistula		6	
	Prolapsus ani		8	
	Hernia		24	1
	Constipation		435	3
	Vermes		255	7
	Hepatic congestion		93	4
	Splenalgia		44	
	Splenitis		95	
	Hepatitis		33	1
	Hepatic abscess		7	
	„ cirrhosis		22	6
	„ colic		36	4
	Jaundice		149	4
	Peritonitis		46	9
	Other diseases		213	
	Dropsy		10	
8 Absorb.	Angeolcucitis		29	
	Adenitis		79	1
	Suppuration of glands		75	
	Hypertrophy of glands		20	
	„ of breasts		1	
	Goitre		4	
	Hypertrophy of spleen		47	4
	Swollen glands		2	
9 Urinary.	Bright's disease		299	39
	„ „ chronic		1	
	Acute nephritis		50	15
	Amyloid disease of kidney		3	
	Abscess of kidney		2	
	Renal calculus		1	1
	Cystitis		11	
	Urethral stricture		9	
	Retention of urine		32	1
	Dysuria		1	
	Urinary fistula		7	1
	Diabetes		1	
	Chyluria		1	
	Hæmaturia		14	
	„ of colon		1	
	Hypertrophy of prostate		14	
10 Generative.	Gonorrhœa		471	
	Chancre		33	
	Epididymitis		24	
	Gleet		1	
	Balanitis		21	

	Diseases.	No. indoor.	Cases.	Deaths.
10 Generative.	Preputial herpes		13	
	Phymosis		15	
	Paraphymosis		22	
	Hydrocele		37	
	Varicocele		12	
	Orchitis		98	
	Leucorrhœa		41	
	Dysmenorrhœa		29	
	Menorrhagia		48	
	Vaginitis		19	
	Cervical ulceration		7	
	Endomitritis		9	
	Uterine hemorrhage		10	1
	Pregnancy		57	1
Cutaneous.	Ulcer		3,107	2
	Syphilitic		1	
	Sloughing ulcer		124	
	Septic		1	
	Onychia		206	
	Furuncle		289	
	Ecthyma		81	
	Verruca		12	
	Rupia		33	
	Lupus		4	
	Erythema		31	
	Eczema		256	
	Psoriasis		39	
	Urticaria		61	
	Pemphigus		20	1
	Acne		20	
	Lichen		30	
	Impetigo		8	
	Herpes zoster		95	
	Ringworm		286	
	Scabies		309	
	Guinea worm		40	
	Chigoe-ulcer		464	
	Pityriaris		26	
	Bullae		146	
	Pustules		365	
	Ground itch		755	
	Sycosis		27	
	Framboesia		93	
	Accompanying child		36	
III.—*General Conditions.*				
	Debility		425	37
	Marasmus		54	16
	Coma		1	
	Inanition		5	
	With mother		28	
10 Generative.	Abortion		84	1
	Premature parturition		47	5
	Normal „		101	2
	Abnormal „		44	5
	Ovaritis		14	
	Metritis		9	1
	Perimetritis		41	
	„ septic		1	1
	Ovarian tumour		7	3
	Uterine „		5	1
	Mastitis		23	
11 Locomotive system.	Myalgia		142	1
	Ruptured tendon		1	
	Cystic sheath of tendons		5	
	Synovitis		89	
	Hydrops articuli		3	
	Bursitis		18	
	Periostitis		50	
	Caries of bone		13	1
	Necrosis „		19	1
	Osteoma		7	

Diseases treated in Estates' Hospitals, with resulting mortality.

	Diseases.	No. indoor.	Cases.	Deaths.
12 Cellular tissue.	Cellulitis	...	81	1
	Whitlow	...	134	...
	Abscess	...	1,119	7
	Carbuncle	...	83	...
	Œdema, local	...	203	...
	Sinus	...	30	...
	Tumor, cystic	...	19	...
	„ fatty	...	4	...
	„ malignant	...	7	...
	Gangrene	...	5	1
	Elephantiasis	...	52	1
	Scorbutus	...	7	...
	Moribund	...	21	3
	Old age	...	5	1
IV.—*Poisons.*				
	Alcoholism	...	19	1
	Wild berries	...	1	...
	Opium	...	13	4
	Ganja	...	10	1
	Dhatura	...	4	...
	Human bite	...	1	...
	Snake bite	...	43	...
	Dog bite	...	3	...
	Insect-sting	...	26	...
	Alligator bite	...	6	...
	Irritant	...	7	...
	Kerosine	...	1	...
	Corrosive	...	3	...
V.—*Injuries*		...	29	...
	Burn	...	153	6
	Scald	...	152	5

	Diseases.	No. indoor.	Cases.	Deaths.
	Corrosive fluids	...	18	...
	Contusion	...	524	1
	Abrasion	...	92	...
	Fracture of limbs	...	153	3
	„ cranium	...	9	1
	„ ribs	...	14	...
	Concussion of brain	...	3	3
	„ spine	...	13	...
	Dislocation	...	26	...
	Sprain	...	204	...
	Incised wound	...	1,375	...
	Lacerated wound	...	409	...
	Punctured wound	...	586	2
	Gunshot wound	...	1	...
	Punctured wound septic	...	56	...
	Contused	...	11	...
	Ruptured liver	...	5	...
	Canetrash wound	...	2	...
	Ruptured spleen	...	4	...
	Poisoned wound	...	2	...
	Ruptured bowel	...	1	...
	Injury to leg	...	1	...
	Strangulation	...	3	...
	Drowning (asphyxia)	...	4	1
VI.—*Surgical Operations*		...	4	...
	Major (define)	...	38	...
	Minor („)	...	10	...
VII.—*Under observation*		...	489	...
VIII.—*Not sick*		...	616	...

Excremental removal.—"It has still to be noted that there were no estates in the colony (excepting one) on which any organized system of excremental removal existed."—(*Med. Rep.* 1887.)

63. Quarantine.

There is no quarantine station in this colony. The necessity for the establishment of one has been recognized, and the subject has at different times been discussed in the Court of Policy, but the difficulty of finding a suitable spot has hitherto prevented any action being taken. Ships arriving with infectious disease on board are quarantined outside the mouth of the river, and all the passengers and crew are compelled to remain on board until the ship is released. Vessels arriving from India with infectious disease are dealt with in this manner, but it has rarely happened that the detention exceeded a few days.

On one occasion (ship *Jura*, 1890) after the immigrants had been landed, there was an outbreak of ophthalmia which necessitated their being detained in the depôt for nearly three months. The immigrants who were affected were kept isolated as far as was possible, and permission was obtained to make use of the Kingston Barracks, which were vacant at the time, to facilitate the separation of the infected immigrants from the others.

64. Vaccination.

Vaccination.—In the Annual Reports of the Surgeon-General on the Medical Institutions of the Colony, 1887, I see that vaccination "came practically to an end owing to the unwillingness of the people," and that "the people of the colony are very imperfectly protected." In the report for 1888 the Surgeon-General says, "vaccination was not attempted

during the year." In 1889 the Surgeon-General remarks, "not one-fourth of the children born are vaccinated. A heavy penalty will have to be paid." I had come to the same conclusions from my enquiries on estates. I find that the number of people vaccinated differs very much in individual districts, and in some hardly any vaccination is attempted. Coolies have a natural objection to arm-to-arm vaccination, but if the operation was performed direct from the calf, there would, I think, be no difficulty. I would here again draw attention to the excellent vaccination arrangements in force in Surinam. Recent experiments and observations would appear to show that vaccination has more power even than an attack of small-pox in conferring immunity from subsequent infection. It is intended that all the cooly children should be vaccinated, and I think it a very necessary precaution.

In 1875 an Ordinance, No. 14 of that year, was passed to make the practice of vaccination compulsory. Under that ordinance, the father or mother of every child born in the colony is required, within six months after the birth of the child, to take or send it to the Public Vaccinator (the Government Medical Officer of the district) for the purpose of being vaccinated; and upon the same day in the following week the child has to be taken back to the Public Vaccinator in order that he may inspect it and ascertain the result of the operation. If unsuccessful, the child has to be revaccinated and be again brought back the following week for inspection.

The ordinance provides for lymph being obtained from England. At the same time, the Public Vaccinator may, if he sees fit, take from any healthy child successfully vaccinated, lymph for the purpose of vaccinating any other child then present. He is, however, bound to use lymph procured from England, if the father or mother or person in charge of the child so desires. In order to ensure that all children are brought to the Public Vaccinator, every Registrar of Births and Deaths is bound to transmit to him every month a return of all births and deaths of infants under twelve months which have been registered by him.

Any father or mother neglecting to comply with the provisions of this ordinance is guilty of an offence, and is liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding five dollars.

This law, however, is not thoroughly or universally carried into effect; in fact, it may be said that the number of children vaccinated forms only a comparatively small proportion of the number born.

65. Leprosy.

Ordinance 18 of 1870, which makes provision for the care and maintenance of lepers, does not make segregation compulsory except in the case of any person afflicted with the disease who is found "wandering about, begging or "collecting alms, or seeking precarious support, or wilfully or intentionally "exposing his or her leprosy in any public road, street or place, to the disgust "and annoyance of any inhabitants of the colony."

Any Justice of the Peace on receiving information on oath of any such case from any credible witness, may issue a warrant for the arrest of the person against whom the information has been laid. If, upon the hearing of the case, it shall be made to appear to the satisfaction of the Justice, upon the oath of any medical practitioner, that the person is afflicted with leprosy, the Justice may make an order, subject to the approval of the Governor, for the removal and conveyance of such person to the Leper Asylum, to be detained there until discharged by order of the Governor.

Section 7 provides, however, that "if upon the hearing of the case, the "person so afflicted, or any one on his or her behalf, shall give security to the "Crown Solicitor, by a bond to his satisfaction to the amount of ninety-six "dollars, that such person shall be properly maintained and treated in private, "and shall not be suffered to be at large, the said Justice shall abstain from "making an order of removal." Under section 13, "no person afflicted with "leprosy shall be in any way employed, whether for hire or not, in the pre-"paration for sale, or in the sale, of any article of human food, and in case any "such person shall be so employed, the person knowingly employing him or her "shall be guilty of a misdemeanour, and shall be liable on conviction before "any inferior Court of Criminal Justice to a fine not exceeding ninety-six "dollars, or to imprisonment not exceeding three calendar months."

There are two Asylums, one for men and the other for women, at Mahaica, on the East Coast. Complaints have often been made that the lepers stray

from those institutions and are found wandering about in the neighbourhood; and it has, therefore, been decided to abandon the buildings at Mahaica and to establish a new Asylum on an island in the Essequebo river, which has been selected for that purpose.

In the Report of the Medical Superintendent of the institution, for the year 1889, the following reference was made to the absence of proper means of control over the inmates :—

" There are really no adequate means of exercising much control over " inmates, and the necessity of some such must be apparent when the large " numbers and the mixed class of our inmates are considered. There should " also be some means of exercising more control over the morality of the " inmates.

" Under the head of Statistics I attended to 64 inmates, but it refers only " to those who having left the institution, kept away for some length of time ; " the numbers who abscond for short periods, as all night or for a day or " two, approach nearly three hundred ; but I am persuaded that more go out " who are not reported. Among the numbers are several who make the practice " of doing so once every week, sometimes oftener, and I regret to have to " report that the young boys, seeing with what impunity their elders do so, are " beginning to go out.

" Our people are nothing daunted at being arrested and brought back by " the police, who have done so spasmodically during the year ; 281 having gone " out without leave, and 32 being the number brought back by the police. " The inmates are not slow to learn that except the inconvenience of missing " an assignation, no other consequence attaches to this arrest, so they console " themselves by going out later the same or following night, when they easily " escape the vigilance of the police.

"I bring this to notice, as one of the rules required that any inmates found " outside without leave should be arrested and taken back to the Asylum, but " no one is more cognisant than myself of the impotency of the manner this " rule is carried out to check the people absconding ; unless the work is done " thoroughly, it entails an increased burden on the police without any adequate " result. The police might also, when the whereabouts of an absconder is " brought to their notice, promptly look for him. I have had on more than " one occasion to write a second time, before the man was brought back."

On the 31st December 1890 there were 141 Indian immigrants in the Leper Asylum, viz., 131 males and 10 females.

Each year a certain number of East Indian lepers are sent from the Asylum to this office to be sent back to India. Great care is taken in their examination previous to embarkation, and none are allowed to go on board with open sores, or who have not been pronounced by the Medical Inspector and the Surgeon Superintendent to be fit to undergo the voyage.

---

66. VALUE OF IMMIGRANTS AS TAX-PAYERS.

The Indian immigrants do not, as tax-payers, contribute to the revenue of the colony to the same extent as other classes of the population, nor, on account of their frugal habits and slender requirements both in the way of food and clothing, are they of equal value as purchasers and consumers of articles on which import duties are paid.

The following duties are levied on the articles of diet, etc., principally used by the immigrants :—

	$ c.
Rice per 100 lbs.	0 25
Flour per barrel, 196 lbs....	1 00
Dál per bushel	0 05
Ghee per lb.	0 02
Oil, kerosine, per gallon	0 25
Tobacco in leaf, if in packages not less than a hogshead of 800 lbs, per lb.	0 30
If in smaller packages	0 45

These duties are paid by the importers, and, in the case of rice, flour, and ghee, have hardly, if any, effect on the retail price of those articles.

The following amounts are paid for licenses :—

	Per annum.
	$
Provision shops	4
Hucksters' license	2
Opium, bhang, ganja, in quantities not less than 10 lbs. avoirdupois	480
Ditto in less quantities	20
Cabs in Georgetown	12
„ „ rural districts	20
Horse, pony or mule	8
Donkey carts in Georgetown	16
„ „ elsewhere	12
Donkey	4
Carts other than donkey carts according to width of tire, in Georgetown	32 to 44
Ditto elsewhere	12 to 24
Dogs	2
Guns	4

67. SOCIAL CONDITION AS REGARDS MIXING WITH OTHER SECTIONS OF THE POPULATION.

There is not as yet an approach to anything like fusion between the immigrants and other sections of the population; in fact between them and the blacks there is a mutual antipathy. The Rev. H. V. P. Bronkhurst, in a book written by him entitled "Among the Hindus and Creoles of British Guiana," made the following remark :—"There is no denying the fact that there exists an uncalled "for bitter feeling between the native Creole and the Indian immigrant towards "each other. The native looks upon the heathen Indian as an intruder or "interloper, while the Indian looks down upon the native black as a being "inferior to him in a social aspect. Very often in the colony disturbances of a "serious nature take place between the Asiatics and the descendants of the old "slaves, which end in a free fight, and I suppose this feeling of hatred and "dislike for each other will last so long as immigration from India continues."

It is not an uncommon thing to find a cooly woman living with a Chinaman as his wife, and in one or two instances the woman has accompanied her reputed husband to China.

---

68. STRIKES AND DISTURBANCES.

The following statement shows the number of strikes which occurred during the five years 1886 to 1890, both inclusive :—

Year.	Number of strikes.
1886 ...	31
1887 ...	15
1888 ...	42
1889 ...	12
1890 ...	2

In all these cases the rate of wages was the ostensible cause of the strike, and occasionally the complaints as to the price of the work were found to be well grounded. In the great majority of cases, however, the rates offered were ascertained to be perfectly fair.

These strikes were at times attended with grave insubordination and acts of violence. This was particularly the case in 1888, during which year there were several serious disturbances. Low rates of wages were, in each case, advanced by the immigrants as the cause of their dissatisfaction, but the closest enquiry into the alleged complaints showed that in no single instance were there any grounds for complaint as to the price of the work. Experience in connection with outbreaks of violence on the part of the immigrants has proved that, as a rule, where a strike occurs which is either preceded or accompanied by

assaults on the managers, overseers or drivers, the rate of wages is not the true cause of the disturbance, but that it has been brought about by the evil influence of a discharged headman (commonly called a driver in this colony) or of some other evil-disposed person or persons on the estate.

In the report of the Immigration Agent-General for 1888, the following remarks were made in regard to the strikes which occurred during that year :—

"There were several strikes during the year, some of them unfortunately "attended with violence. In all these cases the ostensible grievance advanced "was the rate of wages, but careful enquiry failed to substantiate this, and the "conclusion arrived at was that the disturbances were brought about by design- "ing and mischievous persons, who simply made use of their influence over the "indentured immigrants to work out their own purposes. For example, there "can be no doubt that at plantation Versailles, the disturbance was entirely due "to a desire to divert attention from a murder which had been perpetrated on "the estate."

A mere strike on account of dissatisfaction with the price of the work assigned is not usually attended with any excitement. The immigrants leave the estate and go to the office of the district Sub-Agent or come to this office, and after their statements have been taken down, they return quietly to the estate and wait for an investigation to be held.

Ordinance 7 of 1873, sections 98, 99 and 100, provide for disputes as to wages being dealt with by the stipendiary Magistrates, but in practice the immigrants make their complaints to the Sub-Immigration Agent, who at once visits the estate, inspects the work and decides the matter. Should the immigrants be dissatisfied with his decision, which is rarely the case, then recourse is had to the provisions of the law, and the Magistrate appoints experts to inspect the work. Their evidence is then taken, and the Magistrate gives his decision in accordance therewith.

In the Annual Report of the Immigration Agent-General for 1880, attention was drawn to the great inconvenience and delay occasioned by this system of arbitration :—

"In a few instances disputes arose in regard to the price of work, but "these were satisfactorily settled by the District Sub-Immigration Agents. "Under Ordinance 7 of 1873, sections 98, 99 and 100, questions of this nature "should be dealt with by the Magistrates; but as a general rule—in fact in "nearly all cases which occurred during the last five years—the Sub-Immigra "tion Agents disposed of them, sometimes by arbitration, but generally by a "decision formed by themselves after careful enquiry into all the circumstances "and a personal inspection of the work. The late Immigration Agent-General, "however, disapproved of any departure from the provisions of the ordinance, "and on the 7th February, in a Minute addressed to one of the Sub-Agents, he "wrote as follows :—'I do not agree with the practice that prevails of making "' the Sub-Agents arbitrate in such cases. It has become the custom to do so, "' one of those many customs which have been allowed to grow up and super- "' sede the law. My reading of sections 98, 99 and 100 is that the Magistrate "' should be referred to in all such cases—the Sub-Immigration Agent's proper "' function is that of Protector of the labourer, and he should not incur the "' odium of deciding for the master.' He then issued instructions to all the "Sub-Immigration Agents that they were not to take upon themselves the settle- "ment of complaints as to the rates of wages, but merely to assist the immi- "grants in bringing the matter before the Stipendiary Magistrates. Since that "date, therefore, the Ordinance has been strictly complied with in this respect. "There is, however, one serious disadvantage in this system, and that is, the "length of time which elapses between the making of the complaint and the "final settlement of it by the Magistrate. Three cases which have occurred "since the order given by the late Immigration Agent-General will serve to "illustrate this.

"First case.—On the 7th of March a complaint was made before the Stipen- "diary Magistrate of the East Coast District by three immigrants on behalf of "themselves and others indentured to Cheateau Margot, as to the price paid for "cutting canes. The arbitration took place on the 18th of March, eleven days "after the complaint, and the Magistrate gave his decision on the 25th March, "so that eighteen days were occupied in the settlement of the dispute. The

"District Sub-Agent, in his report, stated as follows:—'The immigrants them-
"'selves were very much dissatisfied at the continued putting off from Court to
"'Court, as they thereby lost a day's labour every time, and they repeatedly
"'asked me to come and settle the matter at once.'

"Second case.—On the 8th of June the Indian immigrants forming the shovel "gang of the Bel Air estate struck work, and came into town to complain of "the rate of wages. The District Sub-Immigration Agent recommended them "to return to their work, at the same time informing them that if after com-"pleting it they still felt dissatisfied with the price, they could appeal to the "Magistrate in the manner prescribed by the Ordinance. On the 13th June the "complaint was laid before the Magistrate, an arbitration was held on the 23rd "June, and the decision was given on the 24th of June, eleven days after the "complaint was made to the Magistrate.

"Third case.—On the 6th July last the shovel gang of plantation Wales "struck work and appeared before the Magistrate at the Toevlugt Court to "complain of the rate of wages paid them. Two weeks elapsed before the "arbitration was held and a decision given."

45. "The mischievous effects of such delay in the settlement of dis-"putes of this nature are manifest. The immigrants are kept in a state of "protracted suspense, disorganization follows, and thus dissatisfaction is apt to "be succeeded by disaffection and insubordination leading to acts of violence. "The Magistrates are, as a rule, unable to devote more than one day in the week "to complaints occurring in their districts, and the consequence is that the "settlement of them is put off from one week to another. This is certainly "most unsatisfactory, and I therefore believe that it would be better if, in the "first instance, the immigrants could appeal to the Sub-Immigration Agents.

"It very frequently happens that disputes arise from a mere misunder-"standing as to the nature of the work to be performed or the rate of wages to "be paid for it. It is also a common occurrence for the immigrants to leave "the estates for the purpose of making complaints, without any previous repre-"sentation to the managers as to the work being worth a higher rate of wages "than that offered to them; whereas if an appeal were made to the managers "for a slight increase, their request would, if reasonable, be granted. Some-"times, too, strikes occur on the estates, the ostensible reason of which is the "rate of wages; the real cause, however, being the secret influence of a dis-"charged driver, or some other circumstance which has operated to ruffle the "temper and excite the feelings of the immigrants. Yet cases of this nature, "which could be settled by the Sub-Immigration Agents in one or two days, if "taken to the Magistrate might occupy at least a week. In thus specifying some "of the cases that occur, I am giving the result of my own experience. But even "in disputes less easy of solution than those mentioned, it appears to me that "enquiries instituted by the Sub-Immigration Agents would be more satisfactory "to the immigrants themselves than a direct reference to the Magistrates, "which necessarily involves great inconvenience and loss of time. The Sub-"Immigration Agents would always have it in their power to advise an appeal "to the Magistrates for an arbitration in the event of this action being neces-"sary. I am diposed further to suggest that in disputes requiring resort to "arbitration, a speedy settlement would be facilitated if all the arrangements "were left to the Sub-Immigration Agents. The Magistrates would thus be "relieved of all preliminary trouble and labour, and their duty would be con-"fined to taking the testimony of the experts and other necessary evidence, and "giving a decision."

In the Annual Report for 1881 this subject was again referred to in the following terms:—

"On the other hand, where disputes occur on estates about an extent of "work to be performed, and the equivalent in money earned, it is desirable "that the Sub-Agents should appear as umpires and, if possible, prevent "recourse to Law Courts. Besides, disputes about labour can rarely be satis-"factorily settled except by prompt decision on the spot; and it is out of the "question that Magistrates could be expected to repair at once to the scene of "dispute for purposes of arbitration.

"The delay consequent on organizing an enquiry, and the expense attend-"ing assessment, as provided by Act VII of 1873, render the law almost

"inoperative; so much time is lost that both employer and employed lose their "patience, if not their tempers."

Whenever a Sub-Immigration Agent, on inspecting any work in regard to which a dispute has arisen, feels uncertain as to the price that should be paid for it, he remains in the field, watches two or three steady workers, and is easily enabled, by timing them in the performance of a portion of the task, to estimate the proper price. This "time test" is a very practical way of arriving at a conclusion, and one that must satisfy both the manager and the immigrants.

On the occurrence of a strike, the Sub-Immigration Agents are required to visit the estate without delay. The following circular on the subject was addressed to them on the 2nd May 1885:—

IMMIGRATION OFFICE,

2nd May 1885.

SIR,

I have the honour to inform you that in a recent case of a strike occurring on an estate, the immigrants on going to the office of the local Sub-Agent to lay their complaint before him as to the rate of wages, were informed by him that he had arranged to visit a distant estate next day, and that he could not attend to them until after his return, the result being that they naturally felt dissatisfied and went to the Magistrate.

2. This action on the part of the Sub-Agent showed great want of judgment, and of a due appreciation of his duties and responsibilities; for any question as to wages, or any complaint affecting a large body of the immigrants, must necessarily take precedence of any routine arrangements.

3. It is the manifest duty of a Sub-Agent, in such cases, to listen patiently to the immigrants, to ascertain clearly from them the nature of their grievances, and to arrange at once for an immediate visit to the estate for the purpose of holding an enquiry.

4. I consider it necessary also to draw your attention to section 13 of the "Instructions for the use and guidance of the Sub-Immigration Agents," by which, in the event of any disturbance occurring amongst the immigrants on an estate, the Sub-Agent is required to communicate at once by telegram with the Immigration Agent-General.

I have, etc.,

A. H. ALEXANDER,

Immigration Agent-General.

---

69. GANG ROBBERIES.

Gang robberies are unknown in this colony. Some years ago provision grounds were at times invaded at night by gangs of thieves who cut down and carried off plantains and other growing provisions. These gangs were frequently composed of Chinese. To meet this evil a special ordinance was passed, empowering the Magistrates to order flogging in such cases.

Two cases of highway robbery have occurred within the last few years, in which cooly women have been waylaid by one or two black men and been plundered of their jewellery; but this is a rare thing. Mr. Mitchell, in his Annual Report for 1881, made the following remark on this subject:—"Travelling along "the West Coast on a Saturday, not long after my arrival, I was surprised to "find the villages fringing the high road which traverses a number of estates "thronged with Indian immigrants and a goodly sprinking of Chinese and "Creoles, in holiday garb, the Indian immigrants vying with the rainbow "in their get-up, the women especially, cuirassed with massive silver orna- "ments set off here and there by a necklace of sovereigns or American gold "eagle pieces, and nose and earrings of the same metal. It says a good deal

"for the law-abiding nature of the majority of the community and the efficiency "of the police, that even women may, with impunity, frequent the public "thoroughfares, offering as it were a premium on highway robbery."

---

70. RELIGIOUS CEREMONIES.

The Commissioners of 1870, in their report on the condition of the Indian immigrants in this colony, made the following remarks in regard to the outward observance of religion:—"Except in the most remote parts of the colony, "both coolies and Chinese appear to have abandoned all outward observance "of their religion. We noticed but one Hindu temple in the island of "Wakenaam and one high up the Berbice river. Brahmins are not plentiful "among them, and technically, by crossing the sea, caste is lost by all those "who have any caste to lose. This loss can, however, be easily repaired on "returning to India, by performing the prescribed penance. And in the "meantime, the cooly immigrant keeps up the tradition of his religion by an "occasional gratuity to some wandering teacher of sacred books." Since the date of that report there would appear to have arisen amongst the immigrants a desire to pay more attention to their religious observances, for there are now in the colony 29 Muhammadan mosques and 33 Hindu temples situated in the following estates and villages:—

Muhammadan Mosques.	Hindu Temples.
Port Mourant 2.	Skeldon.
Albion.	Port Mourant.
Rose Hall.	Albion 6.
Blairmont.	Lonsdale Village.
Bath.	Friends.
Cane Grove.	Cane Grove.
Hope.	Melville.
Enmore.	Chapman's Grove.
Nonpareil.	Greenfield.
Chateau Margot.	Bee Hive.
Success D.	Clonbrook.
Peter's Hall.	Dochfour.
Windsor Forest.	Hope.
Blankenburg.	Victoria.
Den Amstel.	Cove and John.
Leonora.	Enmore 2.
Uitvlugt.	Nonpareil.
Met-en-Meerzorg.	Triumph 2.
De Kinderen.	Montrose.
Tuschen-de-Vrienden.	Zeelandia.
Philadelphia.	Riverstown.
Maryville.	Johanna Cecilia.
Zeelandia.	Zorg.
Aurora.	Perseverance.
Golden Fleece.	L'Union.
Perseverance.	Anna Regina.
Queenstown.	
Hampton Court.	

Some of these mosques and temples were built by means of subscriptions, others by individual immigrants. It may, of course, be a question whether this large increase in the number of such edifices indicates a "revival" of religious zeal among the immigrants, or is due to the influence of their Brahmins and priests, whose status and power are necessarily increased by the existence of temples in which they can officiate.

The principal religious ceremonies are marriages, funerals, the naming of children, accompanied in the case of Muhammadans by circumcision. Dinners or feasts form a leading feature on all these occasions. The ceremonies are carried out in much the same manner as they are in India.

71. BOX MONEY.

This is a system much in vogue amongst the immigrants, and is likely to continue so, as it gives them the chance of obtaining a lump sum of money after paying one or more small weekly contributions to what is called "the box," and may be likened to a "pool." Under this system, several immigrants agree together to pay into the "box," which is kept by one of their number selected for that purpose, a certain small amount weekly, usually from two shillings to four shillings.

The total amount thus deposited is then drawn each week by one of the contributors who has, by lottery, gained this privilege. The person who has drawn the money has, of course, to continue his weekly contributions until they amount to the sum drawn by him. Each contributor thus draws in turn until all have received the total amount of their deposits. The "box-keeper" is paid a small sum, varying according to the amount of money in his charge, by the party who draws the money. Sometimes two immigrants join together to pay the weekly subscription, in which case they divide the money drawn by the one in whose name the deposits were made.

72. This completes my notes on the miscellaneous information furnished me during my six weeks stay in this "magnificent province," and it now only remains to offer suggestions in the few directions I think further improvement is possible; and first I would earnestly call attention to the necessity of the adoption for this and Trinidad of a comprehensive and well-considered set of immigration laws, such as, I think, will be found after a few alterations in the British Guiana Immigration Ordinance of 1891.

2. In the interests of justice and morality I would ask that steps be taken to legally recognize those alliances which, if they are not marriages, should be considered as such, and in which there has been issue or cohabitation for such a period that there are reasonable grounds for supposing that the survivor has been a contributor to the amount at credit of the estate, or that there has been such mutual assistance as to justify a claim to share in the property. Indeed, I would go further, and say that, as regards property acquired in the colony and children born in the colony, alliances of a permanent nature, even if not within the caste limits allowed in India, should be legally recognized. Caste is an ever diminishing quantity in the colonies, and is little or at all considered in these cases. The common sense of the colony concedes all these claims but legally unless a marriage is registered, and very few such marriages are registered they are legally invalid, and the children are illegitimate.

A very careful note on the subject of Heathen Marriages, by the Hon'ble A. H. Alexander, Immigration Agent-General, will be found in the body of the report.

3. Considering the large grants of money made to schools built and the educational staff and books provided by the estates, I do not think the results obtained are at all what might be expected. Very few Indian children, certainly not more than 10 per cent., go to school, and these only when very young and too small to earn wages on light work. Some managers insist on the children going to school for an hour or two before work, and no doubt this influence might be used by all to encourage elementary education. The framers of the immigration ordinances evidently contemplated that all children between 10 and 15 should regularly attend school, and insisted that the means should be provided by proprietors of estates for giving effect to their wishes. There are many difficulties in the way, and managers cannot afford to makes themselves unpopular with their free labourers, on whom they are so largely dependant, by insisting on measures which are distasteful to them, and by which they are deprived of a portion of the family earnings. The indifference of many cooly parents to the advantages of education as compared with the money which can be earned in the field by their children, also stands in the way; but I think more might be done to ensure the attendance for an hour or two a day of all children of indentured parents, at an age when their labour cannot be very valuable. The subject of education is discussed in the body of the report.

4. *Vaccination of Indian children.*—There is a great diversity of practice as regards the vaccination of cooly children born in the colony. On some estates this is done regularly, on others it has been neglected for years. The

Surgeon-General in his reports has repeatedly referred to this and pointed out the danger of neglecting this safeguard against a terrible scourge. All immigrants before leaving India are vaccinated, unless they have already been inoculated or have had small-pox; but there is a large population of small children born in the colony, who are not protected in any way. There is a strong and perhaps partly justifiable objection among Hindus to arm-to-arm vaccination, and the question of caste of the two babies may add to the prejudice; but it would, I imagine, be very easy to provide for direct vaccination from the calf in one or more central places in each district on a suitable day in the week.

5. *Rations.*—Much liberality, of which there is ample evidence in my diary, is shown on many estates in providing food, and not only food but all other necessary comforts for newly-arrived coolies, and the estates go to great expense in feeding their labourers well until they have learnt to take care of themselves. The eight cents allowed to be deducted daily from the pay earned only reimburses the estates for a part of the cost of the liberal ration provided. Many estates also give the new-comer all the implements free of cost he will require in the field, and a week of free rations at the beginning and end of the period of rationing, so that the cooly may not have to spend any of the little money he may have by him. In malarious districts employers are careful to give their labourers a free ration of milk and quinine in the early morning to keep off fever. One estate I have noted gives rice and dal free throughout the whole of the first three months, and others give soap, kerosine oil, tobacco, matches, cooking pots, lamps, padlocks and chains to lock up their houses. But whatever extra and gratuitous rations may be given, the object of the ordinance will not be attained unless care is taken to see that the cooly gets the food laid down by rule, and which is considered necessary for him. The ration being a liberal one, the cooly will often, if he can, deprive himself of a portion of the food in order to purchase tobacco, kerosine oil or other luxuries, and sufficient supervision should be exercised to ensure that he gets the ration ordered him. The Ordinance says the food shall be distributed daily by the employer. Practically, I find that this duty is delegated under the orders of an overseer or driver to the Portuguese or Chinese shopkeeper, who is paid so much for each ration he is supposed to supply, and, as said before, the value paid for the ration by the estate is often greater than can be recovered from the immigrant by law. Now, the shopkeeper has no interest in supplying to the cooly the exact articles constituting the ration, and as there are more than one shop on the estate, it is to his benefit to keep on good terms with the coolies by supplying them with what they want, and too often I find that the coolies are allowed by the shopkeeper to substitute any articles they may require, even the purchase of those which cannot be used as food. Indeed, I have seen an estate where the coolies are given their eight cents daily, and are told to go and buy what they like. The supervision intended by the Ordinance is not exercised sufficiently strictly, and I found that considerable ignorance prevails, not only as to what the coolies drew from the shop as rations, but even as of what the prescribed ration consisted, and in what quantities; and many were not aware that the Ordinance of 1873 had been abolished and a new ration substituted in 1875. The period for rationing, three months, is shorter than in most colonies which hold strong opinions on the necessity of rationing newly-arrived immigrants until the next unhealthy season of the year has passed.

6. In my diary many references will be found to the system of tasks and their payment. A task lasting some days is preferred by the free-labourer, as it gives him more latitude as to times of work and relaxation. As long as he has finished his task by the time stated, nothing is said as to how he has passed his time in the interval. This is, of course, a good arrangement for both employer and labourer, but it involves the departure from a well-recognized rule to be found in immigration ordinances, that any wages for work done owing to immigrants shall not be deferred over the next weekly pay-day. Here, as in other colonies, wages are paid on Saturday, but in the case of those coolies who have taken up a task which extends over the pay-day, on many estates nothing is given them for that task until it is finished. No injustice is done to the cooly who is paid on the next pay-day after his task is finished, but it is contrary to the terms of the Ordinance and for the inspecting officers introduces many difficulties in readily deciding whether wages have been properly distributed. It is only necessary to study the different systems in vogue in various estates to appreciate

the discrepancies with the Ordinance which must arise. Some estates enter in the pay-book as wages the value of the task when it is taken up, others when half completed, and others again only when it is finished; and the pay-book is no longer a record of work done or of wages earned. The Ordinance says a task shall be such work as can be done by an able-bodied man labouring with reasonable diligence in 7½ hours, and it also provides a column in the pay-book to show the wages earned daily. For the sake of uniformity, if for nothing else, and being not unmindful of the serious injustices which I have discovered in other colonies from allowing wages to be deferred beyond the next pay-day, I would recommend that the provisions of the Ordinance be complied with, and whatever portion of the task has been completed should be paid for on the succeeding Saturday. There is no difficulty in this; indeed, on many, and I may say well regulated estates, the work done by each man as in "shovelling" is entered daily in the estate's books. As instances of the opinions held by different managers, I would refer to my diary and the remarks recorded at estates Penitence, Peters Hall, Schoon Ord, Cornelia Ida and Maryville. The system of fines for free coolies is illegal and should be discouraged. Many managers keep up discipline and avoid cases before the magisterial courts without recourse to fines, and it might perhaps be advisable to give the sub-agents of immigration power to dispose of those small offences. I must, however, say that these small punishments are usually administered by managers with strict justice and in exact proportion to the offence, and that they are preferred both by managers and coolies to the waste of time and money involved in appearing before a Magistrate. The fining of indentured coolies is almost unknown. Sometimes the fines are collected and go towards a Christmas festivity given to the labourers of the estate. As regards the general arrangements made for the Indian immigrants, I have nothing but admiration to express. The system has passed through successive stages of improvement, until it now stands, a pattern to all the world, of successful and liberal management. It is only necessary to refer to the volume of circulars to managers, issued by the Agent-General of Immigration, the Hon'ble A. H. Alexander, to show how minutely every detail of the management of immigrants and estates is criticized by the administration. My notes on visits to estates furnish ample evidence of the justice, kindly care, and liberality which immigrants may expect from their masters. Raw and ignorant coolies quickly become skilled workmen, drawing wages at a rate unknown in their own country, and after their five years' indenture has expired, every chance is given them of starting with the knowledge and experience calculated to make them successful and independent settlers, while the numbers of occupations available give a wide scope for following most profitably individual tastes.

DIARY.

BRITISH GUIANA.

11TH JULY 1891.

ON my arrival in Georgetown, Demerara, I was much gratified in receiving from Sir Charles and Lady Bruce an invitation to stay at Government House. Landing from the Dutch mail steamer *Orange Nassau* after a tedious passage of three and-a-half days from Trinidad, distance between port and port under 400 miles, I drove to Government House, where I was introduced to the Acting Governor, Sir Charles Bruce, K.C.M.G., by the Private Secretary, H. Le Rune Barclay, Esqr. After breakfast I accompanied the Hon'ble A. H. Alexander, Agent-General of Immigration, to the Registrar's office, and left with him a census form which had been prepared for me by the Government Statist of Trinidad, Mr. H. J. Clark, intended to show the status of the coolies under various headings. Mr. Dalton, the Registrar, kindly promised to let me have all the information in about a fortnight. I explained to him that I wished for as detailed information as possible on the occupations of free or unindentured coolies, and he will add several columns to the return of occupations peculiar to this colony, or which have not hitherto been noted. I then went to the Immigration Office with Mr. Alexander, who kindly showed me some of the books and the method of keeping them. There seems to be an immense amount of work in this office which must require great system and regularity in managing. Sir Charles Bruce has been kind enough to appoint Mr. St. Felix Daly as my Private Secretary.

12TH JULY 1891.

Sunday.

13TH JULY 1891.

Occupied in going over the Annual Reports of Immigration since 1874, and interviewing several officials and gentlemen connected with the sugar industry who called on me.

14TH JULY 1891.

Georgetown Public Hospital.—I visited the Public Hospital, over which I was shown by Dr. Williams, the Resident Medical Officer. The hospital is a conglomeration of many wooden buildings built as occasion required and money was available; they are consequently not arranged in any regular order nor built on one system. A public road runs through the centre. I noticed some of the new buildings which seemed very appropriate for the purposes, notably the physiological laboratory, which will also be used for bacteriology. The mortuary and *post-mortem* rooms are adjoining. The total number of patients is 655, of which 286 are East Indians or their children.

Indentured.		Free.		Creoles or born in colony.	
Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.
20	3	206	37	11	9

I visited the wards and saw the Indian patients. Many of them appear to have very trivial diseases, and others to be afflicted with chronic skin-diseases, &c. The number of cases of acute disease is comparatively small. They all appear to be very comfortable and thoroughly well looked after. They are dressed in hospital clothes, their beds well supplied with clean bedding, and the whole of the wards clean and tidy.

Georgetown Prison.—After completing my visit to the Public Hospital, I visited the Georgetown Gaol, where I was met by Captain Baker, the Inspector of Prisons, who showed me the Indian prisoners and the internal arrangements. The prisoners are many of them old offenders. About half of them are confined for offences against the Immigration Laws, breaches of contract, etc.

The following table shows this :—

Under Immigration Laws.		Other offences.		Total.
Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	
57	2	59	1	119

Of these 108 are from Bengal and Upper India and 11 from Madras. The proportion of Madras coolies to Bengal coolies in the colony is very small.

I saw the labour given, the food supplied, and the dormitories, in which no beds are supplied. The prisoners sleep on the wooden floors, which are very clean; also the segregation cells, of which, compared with Indian gaols, there are a great many and often occupied. The kitchens, latrines, &c., all excellent of their kind.

DIET SCALE.

East Indians.

	Molasses.	Bread.	Rice.	Peas.	Curry powder.	Plantains.	Sugar.
	Oz.	Oz.	Oz.	Oz.	Oz.	Oz.	Oz.
Breakfast ..	1	4	...	...	...	...	...
Dinner	...	3	...	6	½	10	...
Supper	...	3	5	...	...	...	1
Total for day's rations	1	10	5	6	½	10	1

Orphan Asylum.—I then went to the Orphan Asylum with Captain Baker, who is the Managing Director, and saw the dormitories and living arrangements of the children, who seem happy, well fed, and cared for.

Number and description of children in the Orphan Asylum this 13th July 1891.

	Boys.	Girls.
Of African descent	49	27
„ Portuguese „	1	...
„ Cooly „	11	5
„ Chinese „	...	...
	61	32
Total ...	93	

I then visited the Georgetown Alms House with Mr. E. J. R. Willcocks, the Secretary to the Poor Law Commissioners.

A number of fine buildings situated in ground well laid out and ornamented with flower gardens. The rooms and wards were clean and cheerful, and the kitchens and outbuildings commodious. The inmates average over 500 in number; of these about 50 are East Indians. The occupations are road making, breaking stones, keeping up and cleaning the grounds; various trades as carpentry, painting, tailoring, basket-making, are followed; and some are employed in whitewashing, cooking and carting. This institution affords a comfortable home for many old, infirm, blind, or otherwise dependent people, who, if not provided for here, would be begging in the streets, or crowding the hospitals.

16TH JULY 1891.

Visited Estate La Penitence.—The nearest estate to Georgetown and part of Bel Air. No indentured coolies. No bounty. Free 441, including Chinese.

Males	173
Females	111
Chinese	122

There have been no indentured immigrants here for 10 years; the whole work has been and is done by resident labour. Outside labour is only called in when work is heavy and is done by job contractors or Creoles and coolies. Job cooly labour is very easily obtained when wanted, many coolies living in the town close by. There are three separate pay-lists—Transient gang, Shovel gang, Weeding gang—and an abstract of all three in a separate book. The overseer's book does not show daily the work of every cooly, but names are entered when a new task is given. In the pay-list no mention is made of the kind of labour on which each man is employed. The only way in which it could be ascertained how a man was employed would be to look him up in the overseer's pocket book. Muster rolls are kept on estates only when there are indentured immigrants. The whole of the accounts are kept in bits (8 cents). Payments are made once a week by the manager, through the driver. To show what can be earned by a good man at forking or any shovel gang work, the manager pointed out the name of Ramadin Sing, who had made on an average 10*s.* 6*d.* a week during January 1891. Now there is no scarcity of labour, but some work is given them to find employment for them. Names are entered alphabetically in the pay-lists. A task may be taken up sufficient to employ a man for three or four days or a week, according to the task. If the labourer has not finished the whole task by the next pay day, he is paid for the work done, and the balance is shown as deferred and struck off when the task is finished. Ordinarily speaking, a task gang would not be paid until the task was finished; but on this estate, in order to keep them going and satisfied, whatever they have earned at the end of the week is paid them. If the portion of the unfinished task is done by another man, his name is added to the balance struck off in the column "To whom paid." There is a school entirely supported by the estate. Of 122 cooly children on the estate, the average attendance would be about 30, but mostly those who are not old enough to work. I visited the school; the average attendance of cooly children appears to be something over 20, and these very young ones, the eldest about six years old.

ABSTRACTS FROM PAY-LISTS.

La Penitence Estate.

In the week ended 10*th July* 1880—

157 indentured shovelmen earned $120-72,
or on an average 78 cents per week,
or „ „ „ 13 „ „ day.

Including those who did not work for the whole of the week, but not including deserters and others absent the whole of the month—

190 men earned $120-72,
or on an average 63 cents per week,
or „ „ „ 10½ „ „ day.

Creole gang, week ended 23*rd June* 1891—

28 boys and girls earned $16-44,
or 60 cents each per week,
or 10 „ „ „ day.

Shovel gang (*free coolies*), *week ended* 11*th July* 1891—

50 men earned $70-36,
or $1-41 each per week,
or 24 cents each nearly per day.

In week ended 17*th January* 1891—

88 free shovelmen earned $166-96,
or $1-90 each per week,
or 32 cents „ „ day,

supposing every man worked six days per week, which he most assuredly did not.

Ramdeen Sing, free, earned $10-08 in the four weeks of January 1891, or an average of $2-52 per week.

Week ended 17*th January* 1880—

92 free shovelmen earned $150-60,
or an average of $1-64 each per week,
or „ „ „ 27 cents „ „ day,

supposing every man worked six days, which certainly was not the case.

The comparison betweeen 1880 and 1891 was made to show the higher wages earned now than formerly, which is chiefly due to increase of and better work done rather than to higher rates.

I then visited Estate Ruimbledt—

Coolies, indentured, 100.
„ free, 450.
All resident.

Saw the hospital. It is a raised wooden building with male and female wards, and a verandah on both sides. 24 patients, mostly suffering from intermittent fever.

The establishment consists of—

1 Certificated dispenser.
1 Female nurse (Portuguese).
1 Cook (man)—cooly, Madras.
1 Scavenger (Creole, black).
2 Washers and scourers (Portuguese).

Out-buildings.—Kitchen. Mortuary, bathroom, dispensary, dispenser's quarters and nurse's quarters, and store-room and linen closet, all in the main building. Wooden beds. Mattrasses with coir stuffing. Blankets, sheets and pillows. Chamber utensils. Tin cups and pans. Meals are taken in the gallery at tables. Iron tanks for rain water. Latrines, male and female. Megass ashes used instead of earth. Out of 24 patients 13 were free coolies.

Lost days.—The law for the prolongation of indenture for "lost days" is a dead letter. No estate has brought up a cooly before a Magistrate to have his indenture extended for the last three years.

Rations.—On estates on the Demerara river and creeks, but not on those on the coast; for three or six months after arrival, in addition to the legal rations, milk and quinine are given every morning before going to work.

16th July 1891.

I then drove to Estate Houston.—J. Gillespie, Esq., Manager.

Indentured—Males	...	72	Females	...	32
Free — Do.	...	378	do.	...	238
Children —Boys	...	102	Girls	...	86
Totals Males	...	552	Females	...	356

In all 908.

I saw the "*ranges*"; they are earth-floored and iron-roofed, close boarded inside the roof. The drinking water is got from a pond connected with the Lamaha canal. There are houses for the cows at the back of the "ranges," but I see they are very generally tethered in the verandahs. There are no gardens except a few feet for corilla here and there. Fowls even among new coolies are very commonly kept in hutches inside the huts. I examined the pay-lists. They are kept in the same way as on the last estate. Payments are made weekly on Saturday. A task is given to last several days, and the amount to be paid is entered on the first day, the only entry in the daily column is "p" for present, "a" for absent, "h" for hospital, "s" for sick, "l" for leave, etc. If the task is not finished by Saturday, the labourer is paid for the proportional part of the task finished, and the rest of the pay shown as "deferred" until the next pay day. Among the credits at the end of the week I see farm rents, which are for fields rented to Portuguese and free non-resident coolies; also house-rent, which is charged to resident coolies who have not worked during the week at the rate of two bitts a week. The total for year to 30th June 1891, $13-40.

Fines shown weekly as a credit to the estate. The manager says indentured coolies are never fined. The amount of $3-32 was fined from outside village coolies. For disobedience of orders, Mohabir (driver) 48 cents. For work not done—

Chunder	...	...	$1-60
Kalloo	...	...	0-40
Petumbar	...	...	0-40

This work has been lying over for six weeks and had not been finished. It was therefore transferred from the deferred pay column to the fine column in the deferences book. The other two fines were for defoecating in the manager's avenue—

Soonder, free resident cooly, 12 cents.
Umber, ditto do., do.

The fines for 12 months up to 30th June 1891 are $62-26. This goes into the general credit of the estate.

School.—With Government grant of $18-50, including teacher's salary. The system here is for every child under 13 to go to school from 9 to 12 and from 1 to 3. They work on the estate from 6-30 to 9 A.M. and from 3 to 5-30 P.M., for which they get 4*d.* to 6*d.* a day. Religious (Christian) instruction is given to all. They are taught the catechism, the commandments and New Testament. Parents have never made any objection to this. The attendance to-day is 39 boys and 16 girls, out of 48 boys and 27 girls on the school list.

Pasturage.—There are 127 head of cattle owned by immigrants, for which they pay 36 cents a head per month, including cow-minder's pay. The indentured coolies have 12½ head and the free coolies 114½ head. Total credit for year up to 30th June, including outside villagers' cattle, is $405-10. I see many evidences of kind and liberal treatment on the estate, and the coolies are happy and contented. The "means" or average of wages earned now and ten years ago, show that the indentured and free coolies are both earning a great deal more now than then, but more and better work is expected now than formerly. Implements and cooking pot and bucket are given free on first arrival. The children are a very healthy, well fed, and a merry lot, and are evidently well looked after. The school system appears to be an excellent one.

As regards the provisions of the Labour Law (Immigration Ordinance, 1891) for indentured immigrants, to comply with section 93 the procedure on this estate would have to be altered.

Section 93 is as follows:—

"No task shall be of greater extent than can be performed by the immigrant to whom it is assigned within one working day of seven hours without extraordinary exertion."

As shown above, the manager states, and reference to the pay-lists verify it, that a task is generally given which lasts several days, and if not finished by the pay day, a proportional part of the price of the task is given, and the rest shown as deferred. This appears for many reasons to be not so good a plan as that required by the ordinance and followed in Trinidad and other places, of paying so much a rod of 10 feet for task-work done. Following the Trinidad plan, if the price for working a rod of land is 3 cents, and the labourer works 10 rods in the day, the work is measured, and the pay earned, 30 cents, is entered in the pay-list at the end of the day. If he does more work, he gets proportionately more pay for that day, and *vice versâ*. There are some tasks, of course, which cannot be measured by the rod, such as pen manuring, loading punts, carrying canes or earth; but the same principle might be adopted, viz., so much a hole or number of holes, or by the number of carts filled or baskets carried.

Section 94 provides that any one indentured as an able-bodied immigrant who is not earning 24 cents, and any one indentured as not an able-bodied immigrant who is not earning 16 cents a day, *may* be put on an "Invalid list" and given rations, work, and pay suitable to his condition. These are apparently the only circumstances under which an indentured immigrant can receive less than 24 cents or 16 cents a day, as the case may be. In practice, however, when work is done by the task, the labourer is paid for whatever work has been finished satisfactorily, irrespective of any minimum amount.

Section 113 says that a manager shall keep a book with names of immigrants *not under indenture*, the wages earned by each such immigrant in each week (not in each day, be it observed), and shall pay such wages; but nothing is said as to how often or after what period or interval such wages shall be paid.

17TH JULY 1891.

Houston Hospital.—Licensed for 78. I visited the hospital, which is a very large and lofty wooden building raised on piles with verandahs in which there are dining tables and benches. Dispensary, store room and linen closet. There is a male and female ward comfortably furnished with wooden beds with mattresses, pillows, blankets and sheets. Rain water is provided for drinking purposes in iron tanks. There are to-day 20 male and 15 female patients, mostly suffering from slight fever. I notice night stools, two baths, washhand basins, and tables and shelves. The walls have pictures on them. The nurse and dispenser are both resident and qualified. Of the 35 cooly patients 11 are indentured and the rest free. No non-resident. There are also two negro Creole patients.

PLANTATION HOUSTON.

Week ended 11th July 1891—

155 free shovelmen earned $338-04,
or an average of $2-11 each per week,
or „ „ „ 35 cents „ „ day,

supposing every man worked six days. If those who did not work are included, there are 181 names on the pay-list, and the average per man is $1-87 per week and 31 cents per day.

In the week ended 11th July 1891—

53 indentured shovelmen earned $86-48,
or an average per man per week of $1-63,
or „ „ „ „ „ day of 27 cents,

supposing every man worked six days.

Including those who did no work for the week—
59 indentured shovelmen earned on an average $1-47 per week,
or 24½ cents per day.

The above calculations were made on the supposition that labour was done on six days in the week; but in this colony five days, and probably less, is the utmost work that is expected from immigrants, and half holidays are taken on Mondays and Saturdays.

I then drove to estate Peter's Hall.

	Males.	Females.
Indentured coolies ...	161	62
Free do. ...	294	207
	Boys.	Girls.
Children	146	155

Fork, shovel, cutlass, pan and cooking pot, and a bucket to each room are given free on first arrival. The women get hoes and cutlasses free. Free pasturage is given to cooly cows and goats, and the coolies are given two stock-minders free. All are allowed a garden patch, but all do not cultivate it. No school on the estate, but payment is made for each child schooling in the neighbouring village school. Only about 6 children go to school out of 28, and they very small. In addition a woman is paid to carry the children to school. All the building hands except engineers, pan-boilers, "yar yan" (evaporator) boilers, and the superintendent of clarifiers are coolies. No women are employed in the manufacture. Here the money earned by-task-work is entered on the average once in two days, and the manager tells me it is not a good plan to give an indentured immigrant a large bit of ground sufficient to give him work for a week, and it is a system which he has been trying to break the back of, and the earnings are better; but if tasks were taken daily, the innovation would not be approved of by the coolies and they would be dissatisfied, as they would not understand it. The cooly loses nothing by having a task which may last him two days.

Cost of rations.—The Chinese shop supplies the rations. The shopman charges 9 cents. In addition to the ordinary rations, 4 ounces of bread, 1 pint of milk, and 1 grain of quinine are given free to new coolies for the first six months. The overseer goes to the shop and sees the rations given out. Since January there has been only one case where a stoppage was made from the pay of a free cooly—a groom—and the system practically does not exist.

Indentured immigrants who do not earn 24 cents a day.—Amongst a body of immigrants there will always be a certain percentage of weakly ones who are temporarily unable to do an ordinary task, that is, a task which 80 or 90 per cent. of his fellows will do with ease. He may be recovering from an illness and have left hospital only a short time. These men are paid for whatever work they can do. If they are certified as convalescent, they are supplied with free rations and are paid 8 or 12 cents a day.

Pay-lists—

Week ended 11th July 1891, selected because of its being the week in which the "strike" work was done at rates objected to by immigrants.

	$
119 indentured shovelmen worked for	171·32
Average earnings per week per man	1·44
Ditto per day ditto	·26

Days work performed, 657.

Week ended 11th July 1891—

151 free cooly shovelmen worked for	310·00
at same work and rate, and averaged per week per man	2·05
Ditto ditto day ditto ...	·41⅓

performing 746 days work.

Week ended 11th July 1891—

22 indentured men weeders earned	32·56
An average per man per week of	1·02½
Ditto ditto day of	·28

81 days' work having been done.

N.B.—As a rule, able-bodied men, new coolies excepted, are not employed in the weeding gang, but are shovelmen.

Week ended 11th July 1891—

48 indentured women earned	49·48
Average per woman per week	1·03
Ditto ditto day	·23½

211 days work performed.

N.B.—The above are all the coolies in the respective gangs who worked during the week.

Pay-lists for 1881 not obtainable; nearest corresponding week practicable. Weeding gang pay-list—

Week ended 14th July 1883—	$
21 indentured men weeders earned	14·88
Average per man per week	·71
Ditto ditto day	·15

Days work done, 99.

Week ended 14th July 1883—	
53 indentured women earned	40·48
Average per woman per week	·76⅓
Ditto ditto day	·16

Days work done, 252.

These figures show that men in weeding gangs are not able-bodied. They actually earned in this case less than the women at same work, etc.

Week ended 2nd May 1891—	$
120 indentured shovelmen; all who worked earned ...	201·28
Average per man per week	*1·67⅔
Ditto ditto day	·32⅓

* $1·67 ⅔ cents is ⅓ of a cent less than 7 shillings.

N.B.—In these returns also the numbers of immigrants given include all who worked in the week, and all returns so far refer almost exclusively to field work.

20TH JULY 1891.

6 A.M. to 9 A.M. occupied writing to Vice-Consul for France respecting visit to French Guiana, and preparing a list of subjects on which he has promised information. At 10-30 A.M. drove with Mr. Bennett to plantation Diamond, a sugar estate about eight miles off.

Diamond Estate.—Acreage under sugar, 2,500.

Crop, 6,000 tons.

	Males.	Females.
Indentured immigrants ...	134	59
Free ditto ...	361	227
	Boys.	Girls.
Children	160	111

Rations.—A free ration, in addition to the legal ration, is given to new coolies. Weeding is done by Creole cooly children. Stumping is paid for by the 100. Planting tops by bed. Forking, burying trash, cutting canes, and drilling by the bed, 3 rods by 1 rod or 2½ by 1. All other work done by task. A week's trust-money is never kept back in this colony. Rations are got from the Chinese shop. There are no cooly shops on the estate. There are 200 cattle on the estate belonging to coolies, mostly free; about 50 cows belonging to indentured coolies. Pasturage is free. The Chinese shop-keeper contracts to give the whole ration for 8 cents, exclusive of flour or yam. No rum is sold in his shop, only wine and beer.

All coolies living on the estate are allowed to cultivate as much ground as they like in gardens. A certain number of free coolies "farm" land aback of the estate; 60 cents an acre a month is charged as rent. They plant plantains, cassava, corn, pepper, potatoes, pumpkins, but no rice. There has been no desertion since the 17th October 1890. There were four cases before the Magistrate in 1890 and three this year,—all for neglect to begin work and neglect to finish work. For the last three years there have been no lost days claimed. The coolies are turned out at seven o'clock. They come away when they please for their food, and finish work at 4 or 5 P.M. On Monday they do one hour's work, on Tuesday they finish at about 2 P.M., on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday they do full work, on Saturday half a day. Altogether about 4½ days a week, or rather more. This is out of crop time. In crop time they work six days 7 hours in the fields and 12 hours in the buildings. They also work 12 hours in the field when loading punts by spells. The only work on Sundays is

stock-keeping and watchmen cleaning boilers flues and machinery. This work is mostly done by "black" men. No rum is given at any time. There is a rum shop on the estate kept by a Portuguese. In the case of a newly-allotted woman who is pregnant, she pays for her rations only up to the amount of work that is done. Boys begin to work in the Creole gang about 12 years; some are younger. School in the village. The building is kept in repair, and the schoolmaster is paid by the estate. All work being paid for by the piece, the skilled labourer gets more wages than the indentured. There was one case of commutation of period of indenture last year—a woman who had to be separated and transferred to another estate on account of jealousy with her husband. As the husband was always coming and giving trouble, the woman was allowed to commute. Dewan came in the *Avoca*, 1886; earned in the week ending 10th July, 3 shillings, or 6 pence a day. I saw him, and he said that the reason why he did not make more was because he was cutting grass for his cow. Only one entry of pay is made against his name in that week. On Wednesday the whole pay of the week is entered. Saw the cooly ranges; they are of various plans and dimensions; some are double-storied, but these are of an obsolete and old pattern. The newer ones are comfortable and roomy, roof of galvanized iron with close planking inside, which makes them cool in summer and warm in the colder weather. This planking seems to be a great improvement on the galvanized iron roof as used in Trinidad; but although I made many enquiries there, I never heard anyone complain of the heat of these roofs. There are many garden patches round the huts. Being Monday, on which day hardly any work is done, the huts were full of coolies enjoying themselves, washing their clothes, cooking and sleeping. The hospital is a fine large building and very complete. I will not, therefore, stop to give the usual details. These hospitals, I find, are all conducted on a very liberal scale. They are all very carefully looked after by the visiting doctor, and I will not go into any very detailed description unless they possess some special feature.

2 P.M.—Went with the manager for a drive to a cooly village near the estate. There are about 700 resident coolies who have built themselves huts of the usual Bengal style, with a verandah and a palm-leaf roof. Being the hottest part of the day, they were mostly taking their *siesta*, many sleeping in hammocks slung in the verandahs. Most of them work on estates near, and others cultivate land of their own. They all seem very prosperous, and the children fat, well-grown and jolly. Manufacture ceased about two weeks ago, and the coolies, therefore, have plenty of money and do not care to work very hard. The fields are mostly clean and free from weeds, and there is not so much work as usual. The coolies are not pressed to work. The practice at such times for resident coolies on estates is for the drivers and overseers to go to the lines and call out the prices for the day's tasks—so much for weeding, so much for forking, &c., and those who do not come forward are allowed to remain in their houses. During crop time and other hard work the custom is different; then the drivers and overseers insist on every one turning out, and only those who are sick are not given a task, and the sick are sent to hospital at once.

Pay-lists—Week ended 3rd July 1891—

		$
*68 indentured shovelmen; all who worked earned	...	145·60
Average per man per week	...	2·14
Ditto ditto day	...	·36
Days work done, say 408.		

ROYAL ASIATIC SOCIETY OF THE BOMBAY BRANCH

Week ended 10th July 1891—

*69 indentured shovelmen; all who worked earned	...	113·60
Average per man per week	...	1·65
Ditto ditto day	...	·27½
Days work done, say 414.		

Week ended 10th July 1891—

54 indentured *women;* all who worked earned	...	69·32
Average per *woman* per week		1·28¼
Number of days work done—unknown. Muster-roll incomplete.		

Week ended 10th July 1891—

55 indentured men weeders; all who worked earned	...	61·40
Average per man per week	...	1·12
Days work done—unknown, the muster-roll being incomplete.		

Week ended 17th July 1891—

154 free shovelmen; all who worked earned	...	276·08
Average per man per week	...	1·80
Days work done—unknown. Muster-roll not made up.		

Week ended 3rd July 1891—

127 free shovelmen; all who worked earned	...	289·08
Average per man per week	...	2·27¼
Days work done—unknown. Muster-roll not made up.		

* These coolies, being under indenture, it was assumed that every man worked six days. As a matter of fact they did not exceed five days work—probably less. The wages therefore for work done are actually higher than above stated.

Assuming that the free shovelmen worked Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday, four days per week, or averaged four days each, the average earnings per day per man would be as follows:—

Week ended 17th July 1891, 45 cents nearly.
Ditto 3rd „ „ 57 ditto.
N.B.—All field work.

Having completed my enquiries at Diamond, we drove to Providence, an estate about three miles on the road to Georgetown; but as the manager was not on the estate, I did not make any enquiries or call for the books.

We then returned to Georgetown, arriving about 5-30 P.M.

21ST JULY 1891.

Occupied from 6-30 A.M. to 8-30 A.M. in writing to the Vice-Consul for France, M. Ledoux, asking him to convey my thanks to the Governor of French Guiana for his courteous invitation to stay at Government House while at Cayenne. Also to Mr. Wyndham, the British Consul at Paramaribo, asking him to convey my thanks to the Governor of Dutch Guiana for his courteous invitation to stay at Government House during my stay there. Also to Hon'ble A. H. Alexander, respecting letters to British Consul at Paramaribo. Also correcting proofs of heads of information required in other colonies and in writing up diary. At 10-30 A.M. left with Mr. Bennett, Sub-Agent, having to cross the Demerara river and visit estates on the west bank. Nearly all the public conveyances in the west half of the colony are owned and driven by coolies, but in some cases cooly proprietors employ "black" drivers.

Visited *Estate Schoon Ord.*—Hospital large wooden building, "Old Coffee Logé," double flooring. Women above. Licensed for 70. Patients to-day—males 33, females 18, including children. Last week's returns show a daily average of 35 indentured, 3 free coolies, 4 Creole cooly children. The outside buildings are—kitchen, 2 wooden vats for rain-water, dead house, bathroom, house for washing clothes, general store-room, dispenser's quarters. The hospital is surrounded by a wooden paling, and the grounds are planted with ornamental shrubs. The latrines are on the dry-earth system: females upstairs, males below, connecting by a 60 feet gallery with the main building.

The patients are mostly suffering from very trivial diseases.

I went round the "ranges" with the manager. There are two new ranges of the approved pattern, raised 2 feet with wooden floors 12 × 12, and galvanized roof with ridge and eave ventilation, close planked inside. There are some 200 children on this estate, and we saw numbers of them in the ranges. Every one is evidently very fond of the manager, and came to tell their little tales of woe to him, and the little children have the greatest confidence in him, and think it a great privilege to shake hands. There is a school on the estate, and some 80 or 90 attending; they are made to attend, and only those who attend are given tasks afterwards, and make 10 or 15 cents each. They attend school from 7 to 9 and work afterwards. The drinking water is partly from a trench and partly from a large iron rain-water tank.

Implements.—Hoe, cutlass, shovel, fork and a cord for measuring, a cooking pot and a saucepan, are given free on first arrival, and one bucket to each hut. The Chinese shop-keeper contracts to supply the regulation rations at 11 cents a ration. Only 8 cents is deducted from the pay of the cooly, and therefore this estate, like many others, loses by the ration system. As a rule, flour is preferred instead of the yams or other alternatives. After a time they prefer the ration of plantains in lieu of flour, but the taste requires education. An extra ration of milk, salt, tobacco, soap, candles and matches is given. For the three months ending December 1890, I see this extra ration, which is given free, cost the estate $30·55. The loss to the estate in the three months for the whole rations was $100·67. The overseer issues the rations. No cooly cattle on the estate, as there is no pasturage, and I see no fowls anywhere. I saw the pay-lists and overseers' books. In the latter the tasks given are put down on the day given; but in the pay-list the money earned for that task may be and is shown either on the day the task is given or on the day it is finished. I selected cases in which both of these customs were followed. On the intermediate days "p" is entered, so that it is impossible to tell in some cases whether the "p" refers to a previous task or the one which you are trying to ascertain how many days it took him to finish. All the servants in the manager's house are coolies. The butler gets $15 a month and his food, a lad assistant butler gets $6 a month and food, and their washing is paid for, and a house free and hospital free. The amount deferred is very small for last week; out of 218 workers $2·40 was deferred.

High earning in the shovel gang—

Chintaman	...	...	60 bitts in 2 weeks.	A bitt equals 4*d.*
Golam ...	...	...	65 „	„
Lotun ...	...	...	67 „	„
Ramruttan	...	...	70½ „	„

Low wages earned.—Eight men in the shovel gang earned during July 6 bitts, or 2 each in a week, the first week of the month. On further enquiry it is shown that the reason of these small sums being earned in that week was because there was money to be earned and work

done on account of tasks given and entered in the previous week. Of these, 1 had 6 bitts deferred from previous week, and therefore had to finish that task before he could get another.

Bhugun	9 bitts.
Cheedo	6 „
Gudhari	12 „
Lalzi	6 „
Mohaban	9 „
Nirunjan	6 „
Raghunath	10 „

Therefore these sums should be added to the 6 bitts earned. Thirty cases have been before the Magistrate during this year, of which four were withdrawn, all neglecting to begin or neglecting to finish work. One habitual idler. One for damaging canes. One for leaving hospital without leave. Of these an alternative punishment was given of a fine or gaol. Eleven preferred to go to gaol to paying the fines, which ranged from $1 to $6. There is an entire absence, so far as I can learn, of any attempt to stop payment of wages for petty offences. The amount of pay deferred for work unfinished is very small. The whole arrangements appear to be conducted on a most liberal scale, and the cooly is well treated in every way, and knows it. The manager has been here eleven years, and is thoroughly well liked. He informs me that price of labour for field work all round is 25 per cent. higher than ten years ago. The price of work in the buildings is the same, but most of the work in the buildings is done by "blacks." A cooly, after indenture expires, goes away ("takes a walk") for a few weeks, to enjoy his new freedom, see his friends on other estates, and to get an idea of what he might do outside of the estate if he chose to try it. Then he nearly always returns to the estate on which he was indentured. I do not think there can be any stronger proof of his good treatment than this.

Certificate of exemption from labour : endorsing by employer.—The cooly understands that it is necessary to get this endorsed if he applies for labour on an estate, but it is not always done. Most of the coolies applying for labour on an estate live in the neighbourhood, and have either originally served their indenture there or been frequently employed. In this case his certificate of exemption is not enquired after, but if a stranger appears, no money is paid out to him unless a ticket is tendered

Comparative value as labourers of—

Coolies.	Chinese.
Portuguese.	Negros.

The Portuguese would perhaps come in first, but the cooly would run him hard. Then the Chinese, but he requires to choose his work, and always picks out the well-paid work. Last of all comes the "black," who could beat them all if he chose to work with the same diligence; but he only works on occasions when in want of money for finery or food. The Barbadian negro is, however, an industrious man, and works well; also his wife and children. They are the best cane-cutters there are, but he is not so reliable as the cooly, who ranks first as a labourer in this colony, on account of his industry, steadiness and thrift.

Pay-lists—Week ended 11th July 1891—	$
88 indentured men weeders; all who worked earned ...	124·20
Average per man per week	1·41
Ditto ditto day	·28
Days work done, 443.	
Week ended 11th July 1891—	
58 indentured women weeders; all who worked earned ...	48·28
Average per woman per week	·83¼
Ditto ditto day	·17½
Days work done, 277.	
Week ended 11th July 1891—	
105 indentured shovelmen; all who worked earned ...	202·05
Average per man per week	1·92
Ditto ditto day	·34⅓
Days work done, 584.	
Week ended 11th July 1891—	
102 free shovelmen; all who worked earned	198·56
Average per man per week	1·94
Ditto ditto day	·34¼
N.B.—All field work.	

The following items were selected from the July pay-list, wages earned in two weeks, indentured shovelmen:—

	Bitts.	$
Bhowanath	62⅔ =	5·00
Chintamuni	60 =	4·80
Golaum	65 =	5·20
Lotunsing	67 =	5·36
Ramruthon	70½ =	5·64

These were the best earnings in that fortnight.
The worst was—
Mohatalli ... ... 23 bitts = 1·84
in the same two weeks.

N.B.—All field work, and slack season.

21st July 1891.

Visited estate *Versailles*, 3-30 P.M.
Heirs of Thomas Daniels, Esq.

		Male.	Female.
Indentured coolies	...	182	79
Free „	...	239	110
		10	6
		Boys.	Girls.
Children	...	153	140
		5	3

Payments of wages are made regularly each week—on Saturday afternoon. The only stoppages made are for bad work, or losing property by free coolies. Implements, cooking pot and saucepan, are given free. Extra free rations are given, for six months after arrival, of 3 grains quinine, bread and milk. Pasturage free. 150 cooly cows. Garden patches behind the houses. A piece of land about five acres at the back of the estate has been given to some free coolies to settle on. They have built houses, and grow cassava and corn. There are two shops kept by Chinese and Portuguese. No cooly shops. The barracks are some of them old and out of repair, but there are two new lines, length 100 feet each. The hospital is a manager's house belonging to what was a neighbouring estate now absorbed. The pay-lists show a stoppage from "blacks" and free village coolies, for which a separate column is provided, but this is for deferred work not done, and indentured coolies are never "stopped." School is entirely supported by the estate. The average attendance is over 30. Frocks are given while in school. The children who go to school never work. An attendant is paid for taking them to school. The Chinese contractor gets 9 cents for each ration. It is not the regulation ration now used, but is that of 1873 amended in 1875.

Rice	...	1½lbs.
Condiments	...	¾oz.
Dál	...	4 „
Cocoanut oil	...	1 „
Salt	...	1 „

In addition to this, they get the extra ration of bread, milk and quinine.

Work in the buildings is mostly done by blacks. A cooly can do any work that a "black" can do. Rations are not charged the first and last week. There are two indentured cooly domestics in the manager's house. One is chief butler, and the other is housemaid, her husband is a grass-cutter. The cooly butler is a returned cooly, and was in the same berth before he returned to India. The indentured cooly works six days a week, and every week unless he is sick, and the free cooly works five days a week, allowing for half a day on Monday and half a day on Saturday.

Pay-lists.—Week ended 4th July 1881— $
*52 indentured *women* weeders; all who worked earned ... 41·20
Average per *woman* per week ... ... ·80
Ditto ditto day ... ... ·15
Days work done, 282.
Week ended 4th July 1881—
* 79 free *women* weeders; all who worked earned ... ... 78·48
Average per *woman* per week ... ... ·99⅓
Ditto ditto day ... ... ·18
Week ended 4th July 1891—
* 160 indentured shovelmen; all who worked earned ... 231·08
Average per man per week ... ... 1·44
Days work done—unknown. Muster-roll not made up.
Week ended 4th July 1891—
* 200 free shovelmen; all who worked earned ... ... 370·60
Average per man per week ... ... 1·85
Days work done—unknown. Muster-roll not made up.
Week ended 5th July 1884—
† 105 indentured shovelmen; all who worked earned ... 151·76
Average per man per week ... ... 1·44
Days work done—unknown. Muster-roll not made up.

---

* All field work.

†	$
Field work	105·68
Factory work	46·08
	151·76

Week ended 5th July 1884—
* 249 free shovelmen ; all who worked earned ... ... 427·84
Average per man per week ... ... 1·74
Days work done, not reckoned. Muster-roll incomplete.
Week ended 5th January 1884—
† 213 free shovelmen ; all who worked earned ... ... 337·32
Average per man per week ... ... 1·60 nearly.
Days work done, not shown. Muster-roll incomplete.
Week ended 5th January 1884—
† 119 indentured shovelmen; all who worked earned ... 160·80
Average per man per week ... ... 1·35
Ditto ditto day ... ... ·25½
Days work done, 634.

22ND JULY 1891.

Letters arrived by mail; returns from Trinidad of cases before Magistrates; Blue Book of Trinidad for 1889. Occupied from 7 to 9 A.M. and from 10-30 A.M. to 1-30 P.M. in going over returns and collecting information on various points.

Left at 3 P.M., with Mr. Bennett, for *Bel Air*.

Bel Air Co., Ld.—

		Males.	Females.
Indentured coolies	...	269	94
Free ,,	...	404	204
Madrassi ...	...	30	8

Acreage 2,585.
Crop 5,742 tons sugar.
Molasses 3,300 tons.

On Mondays coolies generally work half a day up to 12 o'clock, and on Saturday half a day, and on other days the full day. Implements, cooking pot and saucepan are given free on first arrival; also first and last week. Coolies pay for pasturage 16 cents a month. There are 427 cows. The milk is sold in Georgetown. Some of the coolies are making $25 a month in this way. It is also sold to the public and estate's hospital. There is a Chinese shop, and written orders are given to the coolies for articles required there. The Chinaman presents an account of "goods" delivered, and the amounts are deducted at the pay table. It is entered on the pay-list as "stop bitts," the number of bitts to be stopped being entered. In the week ending 5th June, 31 got 40 tasks. If a man will not "overhaul" his work, he is either brought before the Magistrate, or if he agrees, the amount of work not done is not paid him. This is done with both indentured and free coolies. If the case is brought before the Magistrate, the money is kept until a decision is given. If a man at the beginning of the week has any work on hand from the previous week, he is entered in the next week's pay-list as on "half work." A "Fine Book" is kept, in which small offences are met by fines, offences such as riding mules, stealing wood or canes or fruit; for burning a house Bhoopsing was fined $4·32—carpenter's charge for patching. This system is common to "blacks" and free coolies. No indentured coolies, so far as I can see, have been fined for petty offences, but some of them have been stopped money for tasks not finished. These, though not "fines," are entered in the same book. They should be entered as money credited to the estate for work taken up and not done. There have been 61 cases before the Magistrate this year—nearly all breaches of indenture, refusal or neglect of work. The punishments are mild—24 cents, 50 cents and costs 3*s*., or costs without fine. I visited the ranges; they are of all descriptions, some of them quite new. There are plenty of ranges of a thoroughly good type for indentured coolies. They are earth-floored, but the earth is raised a good deal, and they seem dry and comfortable. This is the first place I have seen cowdung being used as fuel, but there is no wood on the estate anywhere near the lines. I visited the hospital. It is of the usual type; nothing to remark. This is a very healthy estate, and out of the 2,800 people working on the estate (*Bel Air* proper) there are only 14 patients, and most with diseases not of a serious nature. I visited the school. There are 25 children, of which 9 are girls. This morning there were 61 boys, 30 girls; it is now 4-30 P.M. The children are very young. Hours 6 to 9 A.M. and 3 to 4 P.M. Religious instruction every day. In the buildings "blacks" are engine drivers, fitters, and porters; the rest are coolies. Cane-carriers are all coolies. One cooly in the buildings gets 9 bitts a day (3*s*.) brick-laying and patching gutters. He works all the year round at this price. A boat-builder gets 5*s*. a day all the year round. His son gets $8 a punt for caulking. All the cooks and butlers on the estate are coolies; they get $10 and $12 a month, and they get the run of the table. Some of the mule boys of 14 to 20 get some of them 3*s*. a day. Altogether on Bel Air estate there are 4,963 labourers. In the books of this estate (*Bel Air* proper) the cane cutting for the

---

* For field work ... ... 338·52
For factory work ... ... 89·32
427·84

† All field work.

annexed estates do not appear. If these were added, the mean of earning would be higher, as those are the best paid forms of labour.

					$
Pay-lists.—Week ended 3rd July 1891—					
*7 indentured men weeders; all who worked earned				...	8·32
Average per man per week	...	...	...		1·19
Ditto ditto day	...	...	...		·24½
Days work done, 34.					
Week ended 3rd July 1891—					
*42 indentured *women*; all who worked earned				...	53·28
Average per *woman* per week	...	...	...		1·27
Ditto ditto day	...	...	...		·27⅓
Days work done, 199.					
Week ended 3rd July 1891—					
*193 indentured shovelmen; all who worked earned				...	248·24
Average per man per week	...	...	...		1·29
Ditto ditto day	...	...	...		·29⅓
Days work done, 845.					
Week ended 30th January 1891—					
186 indentured shovelmen; all who worked earned				...	400·40†
Average per man per week	...	...	...		2·15
Ditto ditto day	...	...	...		·40
Days work done, 1,006.					

Returned to Georgetown at 6-30 P.M.

23RD JULY 1891.

Employed in going over returns and papers received from Trinidad; also circulars of Agent-General, Demerara, to managers and employers of labour.

24TH JULY 1891.

Occupied from 7 to 9 A.M. in preparing a letter for the British Consul at Cayenne, asking him to obtain information on various points connected with the status of coolies there. Occupied after breakfast with the Lieutenant-Governor in discussing various points, and in going over maps. Afterwards accompanied the Lieutenant-Governor to the Crown Surveyor's office, and arranged to have a sketch map prepared showing estates in and out of cultivation, and the situation of the East Indian settlements. Afterwards went to the Immigration Office, and obtained information on several points from the Agent-General.

25TH JULY 1891.

I left at 6-45 A.M., and crossed the Demerara river to the West Coast district, and drove six miles to Windsor Forest. I was accompanied by Mr Daly, my Secretary, and Mr. Straker, the Immigration Sub-Agent of the district. On the way we passed through a country of abandoned sugar estates exactly resembling parts of Lower Bengal. By all the surroundings we might have been in Burdwan or Jessore. There was the same water-covered pasturage, with paddy birds ("boglas") wading in it, and which in Bengal in another two months would have certainly held snipe. The same deep ditches full of rank vegetation. The cattle up to their fetlocks in the soft alluvial ground are really more or less Indian by descent from imported bulls. Indian buffaloes with the usual mud-covered skin, and the cooly himself to complete the illusion. The only noticeable difference is, that in place of the date palm there are the more handsome cabbage palms. I cannot understand why this magnificent rice ground has not been cultivated in that crop, and is only used as indifferent pasture. British Guiana contains many thousand square miles of virgin ground, perhaps, as stated by the Kew authorities, more suitable for rice cultivation than any other place in the world, and yet not enough is grown to supply even the rations of the new coolies, and it is imported at an enormous price from America and India. I cannot help thinking that if facilities were given to free coolies for acquiring ground, that this most eminently suitable and congenial occupation would be taken to with avidity. It is true that this ground is valuable as pasture. On the Union and Nouvelle Flanders estates, abandoned sugar estates which are now amalgamated with Windsor Forest, 400 acres of pasture land is rented to a Portuguese at $85 a month, and of course cattle do not exhaust the land as rice would. Rice grown by Indians, called "Creole" rice, is better than any rice which is imported; but the coolies at first did not like it, as it required a different method of cooking from that they are accustomed to, *i.e.*, it must not be boiled in so much water. Paddy "dhan" sells at 10*s.* a bag of 160 lbs. and sells readily at that price. The difficulty is in the cleaning, as there is no other machine but the common *dhenki*. No rice is, I believe, grown on the West Coast, and the coolies do not seem to have grasped the fact that water for irrigation is available in any quantity, now that

† All field work, and in the slack season.

† Amount largely made up of wages for factory work. The bulk of the canes, however, came from annexed estates. The wages therefore do not include earnings of punt loaders and cane-cutters, which are the heaviest individual earnings on a sugar estate in crop time.

the Belrasirie canal system is complete. I saw on the road many cabs driven by coolies, and containing cooly people going to town, dressed in their smart clothes, and the women covered with jewellery, and smoking cigarettes. I am told that most of the cabs on the West Coast belong to coolies. I also visited a portion of the defence against the sea, originated and perfected long ago by the Dutch. It is a curious sight, the sea being higher than the land, to see the crests of the waves flashing above the fringe of bushes on the coast. The expense of these defences is enormous and constant. Far away out at sea, at low tide can be seen the tops of piles once forming the sea defences of estates long ago devoured by the hungry waves.

Windsor Forest.—The head-quarters of 11 estates belonging to the Colonial Company :—

Vrud in Hoop.	Haarlem.
Swan's Cot.	Mary.
Nouvelle Flanders.	Waller.
Union.	Ramsay.
Rotterdam.	Java.

Of these, three are not cultivated in sugar.

Acreage under cultivation, 1,993·028.

Not cultivated 2,258·295.

		Males.	Females.
Indentured coolies	...	153	53
Free do.	...	737	552
Madras do.	...	36	32

The hospital is a large wooden building raised on pillars with wide verandahs. Wooden beds with mattrasses and pillows, and bed-head tickets. Patients to-day—26 males and 18 females. The drinking water is kept in iron tanks and is collected from the roof. There are separate wards for males and females. Establishments consisting of dispenser, who is resident; assistant dispenser, also resident; one female nurse, also resident; cook, Mussulman, scavenger; scrubber, Creole; Washer, Creole. The compound is cultivated and surrounded by a paling. School supported entirely by the estate. Average attendance 52. There are 34 boys and 24 girls on the attendance list. There are 314 children on the estate under 10 years of age. Being Saturday, the school is not open. I saw a great number of children in the "yard," as ranges of dwelling huts are called here. They are very fat and jolly, well fed and cared for, and as a rule much handsomer than their parents. I went through the yard and saw the inside of the cooly huts, which are very comfortable and full of furniture; some even have clocks and English lamps. Many have chairs, and all tables and beds. There are numbers of fowls running about. The verandahs are whitewashed by the coolies, who take great care to make their houses look nice. Outside are deep drains very clean. There are garden patches with corela and gourds. The cow houses for the cooly cattle are at the back of the ranges. Any one who has seen the care bestowed on and for the coolies, the almost luxurious comfort of many of their houses in the yard, the wealth they possess in their immense herd of cattle and goats, the well-fed and happy children, of whom there are a great number, and the many other evidences of prosperity, must come to the conclusion that the coolies have here found a happy home on the estate, where they mean to settle and spend the rest of their lives. They have a great affection for Mr. Munro, the manager, who has been here for eight years. The coolies have 882 head of cattle on this estate. A milch cow is worth $40. Bullock $30. Heifers and steers $25. Calves $5. Milk sells for 4 cents a pint here; in town 6 cents a pint. Butter sells for 48 cents a pound. Produce is taken into town every day. One free cooly has 40 head of cattle, and does nothing else but manage his dairy farm. "Dahi" or curds sells at 4*d.* a pint, and are much used by coolies with their rice. One shilling a head a month is charged for pasturage for grown cattle, nothing for sucking calves. The herdsmen are found by the estate. There are six of them, all coolies. They get $7·50 a month. Implements, pots, pans and a bucket are given free on first arrival, also a week's rations at the end of the third months' rationing. The Chinese shop supplies the ordinary rations at 8 cents a day. Pay-lists are kept in the way which is universal in this colony. I have explained the system elsewhere. There is a book called "Fines and deferences," in which are entered small sums against free coolies or "blacks" for bad or insufficient work, cutting grass, &c. The pay of indentured coolies is never stopped in this way. The amount of fines is carried forward to the end of the year, and is distributed as a Christmas present to the coolies in sugar, rice, goats and peas. Last year 2 tons of sugar, 20 bags of rice, 6 goats, and 2 puncheons of molasses, and dolls for the children, were distributed. The amount of fines for this year is $11·01. The value of the Christmas present of course much exceeds the sum of the fines. The money collected for fines is also spent in rewards to men for catching people cutting canes and for attending Court, also shop for sundries and cooly bread supplied.

Rations.—There is only one cooly on rations. She is a woman who has come from the Colonial Hospital on the 14th July and was a patient there with a broken wrist. She will have to receive three months' rations. On calling the shopkeeper, he says she brings one bitt a day to the shop and gets what she likes. On referring to the Portuguese shop book, I find the woman only gets rice and peas. Chettroo, the driver, says that he attends the distribution of rations at the Chinese shop, and the coolies get what they like up to 8 cents—sometimes flour, sometimes rice. A man may get 2lb of flour. On enquiry as to the price of flour, I find it is 5 cents a lb; this would amount to 10 cents alone—more than the price paid for the ration.

So he is, as I thought, lying. I had an opportunity of questioning the overseer and driver who are supposed to attend the issue of rations. The overseer does not always go, perhaps two or three days in a week. The driver superintends the issue. Neither he nor the overseer know what is the ration prescribed by the ordinance. Rice and dál are always issued. Rice generally 1½lb, but sometimes flour or potatoes are given instead of the extra pound of rice. Ghee and cocoanut oil is issued daily. Massala is given daily. Sometimes kerosine oil or matches are given instead of a part of the ration. The issue of rations is practically in the hands of the Portuguese or Chinese shopkeeper, up to the limit of 8 cents per day for each cooly, and is not controlled by the estate. There is no book kept by the estate to show what amount of rice, flour, etc., has been expended on rationing the coolies, and the shopmen being Chinese and Portuguese keep their book in those languages, and they are to me useless as references. The coolies no doubt got 8 cents worth of things from the shop every day during the three months they were receiving rations, and the manager says they would certainly have complained to him if they had not received what they were entitled to. I should rather believe that if the cooly is allowed to spend his 8 cents a day at the shop as he pleases, there is no chance of his complaining even if he does not get the full ordinance ration in addition to the other articles he purchases. On the other hand, the ration in this colony is a liberal one, and it is undoubtedly the fact that the coolies are often found with large accumulations of rice, dál, etc., in their houses which they have saved from their rations. The coolies on this immense estate are evidently well managed and are prosperous and contented.

Pay-lists.—

Week ended 10th July 1891—

			$
39 indentured shovel gang men worked for	...		54·52
Average per man per week	...	...	1·40
Ditto ditto day	...	...	·24

277 days worked.

In the pay-list there were only 99 entries of amounts earned in this week, as follows :—

$\frac{4th}{2}$, $\frac{6th}{2}$, $\frac{7th}{2}$, $\frac{8th}{24}$, $\frac{9th}{34}$, $\frac{10th}{35}$.

			$
125 free shovel gang men worked for		...	148·48
Average per man per week	...	...	1·18
Ditto ditto day	...	...	·22

667 days worked.

Pooran No. 1 earned for the four weeks ended 24th July 1891—$2·08, $3·84, $1·84, and $2·40, or an average of $2·48 a week.

Week ended 13th July 1883—

			$
94 indentured shovel gang men worked for		...	212·36
Average per man per week	...	...	2·25
Ditto ditto day	...	...	·38

557 days worked.

133 free shovel gang men worked for		...	291·76
Average per man per week	...	...	2·19

Average per man per day and the number of days worked cannot be got, as the entries of "p" and "a" (present and absent) were not made.

Week ended 10th July 1891—

			$
86 indentured weeding gang men worked for			81·60
Average per man per week	...	...	·95
Ditto ditto day		...	·16

498 days worked.

30 indentured weeding gang women worked for			20·32
Average per woman per week	...	...	·67
Ditto ditto day	...	...	·12

Childrens' Creole gang work by the day at 1 bitt or 8 cents, but sometimes earn 12 to 18 bitts in a week.

25TH JULY 1891.

La Jealousie.—After breakfast with Mr. Munro and having completed my visit to Windsor Forest, we drove to *La Jealousie*, about a mile further on.

This estate is sequestrated from Messrs. George Little and Company to the Colonial Bank.

Acreage 1,176.
In cane cultivation, 575 acres.
Sugar produced, 705 tons.

		Males.	Females.
Indentured coolies	...	84	32
Free ditto	...	154	54
		Boys.	Girls.
Children ...	...	56	64

They depend here on village labour for cane cutting.

Rations.—At first the ordinance is enforced, but afterwards if immigrants wish to substitute things like kerosine oil, matches, and tobacco for a portion of the ration, they are allowed to do so. At the end of the three months it is often found that they have saved a bag of rice, or some flour, or salt, or peas. Accumulations are bartered or sold. The ration system is a loss to the planter as at present worked. There is no book kept on the estate to show what articles of food are actually issued as rations to the cooly, but the Chinaman is paid for so many rations at 8 cents a head. The Chinaman's books are not kept in English, so there is absolutely no check. The Chinaman was called, and says he keeps no books, and does not give kerosine oil for rations.

Hospital.—Nothing to remark. It is of the usual type, and well kept. Patients to-day—11 men and 3 women,—all trivial cases.

School.—There is no school belonging to the estate, but there is one on the estate belonging to the London Mission. Only 3 or 4 children go to school out of 120. They work on the estates, picking tops, carrying earth, and other light jobs, 4*d.* to 6*d.* A cooly missionary comes to preach monthly in the hospital.

Pay-lists.—In the buildings the amount earned is shown every day, but in the field only two or three times a week. Fines levied for cutting canes, stealing wood, etc., from free coolies, but not from indentured coolies.

Pasturage.—One shilling a head is charged for all animals, calves included, a month for pasturage. There are 120 cows on the estate belonging to coolies, and 20 or 30 goats. No land is given for cultivation or "farming." Pay is made at the table through the overseer. If the man does not come himself, his money is deferred. It is never paid to any one appearing for him. This is the first time I have found the precaution used, but the manager says it is necessary in consequence of the numerous after-rows which occurred. I saw the dwellings; they are clean, comfortable, and well drained. Many of the coolies are asleep in hammocks, which are also used as cradles for the children.

Necessity for charging for pasturage.—On estates where no charge is made for pasturage, it is a common thing for a man living outside, perhaps in a distant village, where the pasturage is dearer, to arrange with a cooly on the estate, where pasturage is gratis, for the grazing of his cows. This is a fraud on the generosity of the estate. This is an estate much liked by the coolies on account of the liberality and kindness of the manager, and the pasturage available for their cattle—a concession which to them is most valuable. I have been much struck, on my visits to many of the estates in this and other colonies, with the trust and affection shown by the coolies, especially the children, to the manager. The ordinary small child in India, at the sight of a sahib coming into the place, would howl and fly in precipitate dismay; but here they have complete confidence in him, and crowd round delighted and beaming at any small attention they receive, and to the older coolies he is their kind adviser and helper in many small ways much appreciated by the cooly. Having completed my enquiries, and the afternoon being well advanced, I returned to the stelling (steam-boat pier), about seven miles, and took the ferry steamer to Georgetown.

Pay-lists—

Week ended 24th July 1891—

		$
21 indentured shovel gang men worked out of 30, and earned	...	37·88
Average per man per week	...	1·80
Ditto ditto day	...	·36

104 days worked.

In the pay-list there were only 44 entries of amounts earned in this week, as follows:—

18th	20th	21st	22nd	23rd	24th
17	2	19	2	17	4

		$
89 free shovel gang men worked out of 116, and earned	...	131·64
Average per man per week ...	...	1·48
Ditto ditto day	...	·33

396 days worked.

Week ended 27th July 1883—

29 indentured shovel gang man earned	...	45·32
Average per man per week	...	1·53

Average per man per day and number of days worked cannot be got at, as the entries of "p" or "a" were not made.

		$
94 free shovel gang men earned	...	185·48
Average per man per week	...	1·97

Average per man per day as above.

Week ended 24th July 1891—

		$
36 indentured weeding gang men worked for	... ...	36·78
Average per man per week	... ...	1·02
Ditto ditto day	... ...	·21
171 days worked.		
18 indentured weeding gang women worked for	... ...	14·48
Average per woman per week	... ...	·80
Ditto ditto day	... ...	·19

27TH JULY 1891.

I left Georgetown at 7-45 A.M., and crossed the Demerara river and drove to *Cornelia Ida* (nine miles) with Mr. Straker, the Sub-Agent of Immigration, where we were met by the Hon'ble Mr. C. Ross, Member of the Court of Policy.

Cornelia Ida—

	Males.	Females.
Indentured coolies	46	18
Free "	190	113
Madras "	7	4
Children	75	79
	318	214

Number of births for six months ending June ...	12
Deaths, principally dysentery	10

I saw the barracks. They are very comfortable, clean and well furnished, of various patterns, but all in good repair. Hospital, an old wooden building with a few patients with trivial diseases. Nothing to remark. Not a single case of acute disease.

Drinking water.—There are several iron tanks and a cement cistern for storage of rain water. I especially enquired into the water, as the cases of deaths from dysentery led up to it. I see there are a number of children not vaccinated. Shop rent paid to estate $40 a month. There is one shop on the estate, kept by a Chinaman.

Rations.—The system here, and which Mr. Ross found existing on his arrival, is to give each cooly on rations 8 cents a day and to let him go to the shop and spend it how he likes. The understanding with the Chinaman is that he gives the ordinance ration ; but no check has been made on him. It is not at all likely that the cooly will spend the money as it was intended. Pasturage is charged, 1*s.* 4*d.* a month, and stock-minders are found by the estate. There are 88 cows on the estate. When calves leave their mother, 8*d.* or half a guilder is charged. There are a number of pens near the coolies' houses for their cows. Land rents from coolies and others for May $113·76. About 30 acres of land is taken up by immigrants to grow rice : this is free. There is a good deal of land rented to outside coolies and blacks at the rate of $1 an acre per month. The first 10 months are free. Rations are given free until the new immigrant begins to work regularly; also implements and cooking pots.

Shovel gang.—I have often been told in this colony that it would be quite impossible to enter daily the task done and money earned. On this estate in the shovel gang I find that it is done as a matter of course, and the number of bitts earned daily is entered every day.

Box-money, which is the same as "soo soo" or chitty in Trinidad, exists here, but Mr. Ross says it should be very strongly discouraged. The driver is generally the man to get it up, and he often robs the money. It is dying out now, as all managers discourage it.

Fines and deferences.—Fines are never given either to free or indentured coolies. No stoppages are permitted at the pay-table. Deferences are shown in the pay-list, but no separate book is kept. Mr. Ross has been manager of five estates, but he has never heard of the weekly pay being advanced to the estate by the Chinese shop-keeper.

Cola nut.—Mr. Ross tells me that the cola nut is to supersede cacao in the future. It is cultivated much in the same way, and thrives well in low, swampy land, if shade be provided. It should be grown from seeds, so as to have a top-root, and the shade tree should be grown from seedlings, so as to throw out lateral roots on the surface, and not exhaust the soil which nourishes the deep-rooted cola.

Cola nut tree bears in seven years. Each tree full grown gives 150lb of beans a year, and the bean is now 12 cents (6*d.*) a pound in London.

Caste.—A great many men assume caste positions to which they are not entitled, and exact homage from the other coolies. High-caste Hindus marry the people, and Mussalman priests circumcise the children, but not to any great extent. Mr. Ross knows a case of a cooly who has married an aboriginal Indian of British Guiana, and if the North-West district is opened up, they will work together and intermarry. This is one of those estates on which the coolies are thoroughly comfortable and satisfied.

Pay Lists.—Earnings of indentured and non-indentured immigrants in one week in the month of July 1891.

Number at work.	Amount earned.	Days at work.	Average per week.	Average per day.	Number of tasks.	Remarks.
		Plantation Cornelia Ida.				
		Visited 26th July 1891.				
		Indentured shovelmen.				
	$ c.		$	$		$
24	43 60	139	1·81	·31	29	3·29
		Indentured weeders.				
26	30 76	144	1·17	·21	43	2·76
		Non-indentured shovelmen.				
128	254 90	690	1·99	...	...	2·86 Pay-list (old) not to be found.
		Non-indentured weeders.				
76	129 90	369	1·70	...	...	2·78
		Plantation Leonora.				
		Indentured shovelmen.				
148	258 32	802	1·88	·32	276	3·28
		Indentured weeders.				
144	177 80	716	1·24	·24	262	2·96
		Non-indentured shovelmen.				
181	367 08	914	2·04	...	...	3·76
		Non-indentured weeders.				
225	316 66	1,136	1·42	...	...	2·98 Old pay-lists not seen.
		Plantation Vergonoogen.				
		Visited 27th July 1891.				
		Indentured shovelmen.				
23	27 68	82	1·20	·32	28	Indentured immigrants have farms.
		Indentured weeders.				
50	47 12	247	·98	·19	82	They have farms.
		Non-indentured shovelmen.				
116	228 14	574	2·00	...	...	2·00 Also have farms.
		Non-indentured weeders.				
159	195 98	786	1·21	...	...	3·00 Also have farms.
		Philadelphia.				
		No indentured immigrants. All free.				
		Non-indentured shovelmen.				
150	217 56	780	1·65	...	...	2·97

Note.—Indentured immigrants at Plantation Vergonoogen have farms, and in the present slack season are allowed to work on them, and they pay very well. Pay-lists low now in consequence.

Number at work.	Amount earned.	Days at work.	Average per week.	Average per day.	Number of tasks.	Remarks.
		Visited 27th July 1891—concluded.				
		PHILADELPHIA—*concluded.*				
		Non-indentured weeders.				
		Males.				
63	$ c 83 44	368	$ 1·32	$ ·21	...	$ 2·83
		Females.				
70	75 68	196	1·08	·18	...	2·68
		PLANTATION MARYVILLE LEGUAN.				
		Visited 30th July 1891.				
		Indentured shovelmen.				
120	220 16	687	1·83	·32	159	2·92
		Indentured weeders.				
68	72 96	343	1·07	·20	89	2·24
		Non-indentured shovelmen.				
113	205 32	675	1 81	30	...	3·36
		Non-indentured weeders.				
254	361 96	1,267	1·42	·28	...	3·72
		1885.				
		Indentured shovelmen.				
74	106 92	359	1·44	·29	...	2 68
		Free shovelmen.				
113	205 32	675	1·81	·30	...	3·52
		Free weeders.				
100	101 76	504	1·01	·20	...	1 93
		Indentured weeders.				
151	169 24	753	1·12	·21	...	3·72

In the column of remarks the figures show the highest amount earned by one immigrant in the week.

At about 1 P.M. we drove to a neighbouring estate, Leonara.

27TH JULY 1891.

Leonara, including Edinburgh, Groemveld, Anna Catherina.

Mr. Andrews, Manager. Owned by Messrs. Sandbach, Parker & Co. Part of this estate is the oldest in the colony, and the land on Groemveld has been worked continuously for 110 years; 4,400 acres empoldered; 1,808 acres cultivated in canes, 100 acres in cacao and plantain, and the rest pasturage and forest lands. Crop 2,800 tons last year. Normal crop 3,600 tons.

		Males.	Females.
Indentured coolies	...	292	134
Free do.	...	646	422
Madras do.	...	64	43
		Boys.	Girls.
Children	...	365	293

Implements and cooking pots, soap, one bucket to each hut, padlocks, boarding for making bed, are given free on first arrival. At the expiration of three months one week

rations are given free. During the first week they are not put to regular work, but are allowed to cut wood, put houses in order and cleaning about the buildings. All the children are vaccinated regularly. Rations are supplied by Chinese shop-keeper at 10 cents a ration—

1½ lb of rice.	2 oz. of sugar.
¼ lb of dál.	¾ oz. of masala.

1 oz. cocoanut oil and a little salt.

Nothing else is given in lieu of rations; no kerosine oil or matches. The ration given is that of 1873 repealed by 1875.

Pasturage.—The coolies have about 250 cows including calves, and I noticed a village of about 80 thatched huts on the plain, and on asking if it were a cooly village I was told they were the cow-sheds of the coolies' cows. A guilder (1*s.* 4*d.*) is charged for each grown animal, and stock-keepers are provided. The coolies have 7 horses, 40 cents charged for each. They have numbers of fowls, goats and pigs, for which nothing is charged. The coolies have to provide pens, for which they are allowed to cut wood and grass for building.

School.—The building is provided by the estate and the establishment by the Scotch Church Mission. There is a Government grant of $20 a month. The estate supplies forms, but books are supplied by the Government. About 40 estate children go to school out of 658, and mostly very young children. I saw the "yard." The dwellings are large and comfortable, with wide verandahs in which cooking and sleeping is done. To-day being Monday, little work is being done, and the dwellings are full. The yard is clean and well drained. On Monday the indentured cooly works ¾ day at this time of the year. The free cooly works for perhaps two hours. On Saturday all classes work only half day. There are no farms kept by coolies at present. The free coolies work the cacao at the back of the estate on verbal contract for no specified time, but until the trees are too large to grow ground provisions. They may grow anything they like, but get no pay. They perhaps work 2½ days at cacao and the rest of the week at cane cultivation. During crop time they only get Saturday and Sunday for cacao work. There is a plentiful supply of rain water in iron tanks and trenches for bathing and washing. There has not been a "priest," the name by which the wandering Brahmins and fakirs are known, seen on the estate for the last two years. Some of the coolies are hucksters and pay $2 for a license. There are four Chinese shops on the estate. None of them sell rum.

Extra rations of milk are given to children whose mothers go to work. This is an inducement for early work after confinement. Two old women are told off to nurse young children.

Deferences Book.—There is no deference book. All deferences are shown in the pay-list. The cases before the Magistrate are 27 from January 1891. The offences are neglect to finish and refusal to begin work, three desertions, and cutting and stealing wood. Eight went to gaol for 10 days and one for one month. Nine paid fines varying from 72 cents to $7, and three were dismissed. Three were withdrawn. The fines for six months from January to June amounted to $42. This in January is all from blacks and free coolies in the buildings and shovel gang. Fines are shown in red ink. If free coolies won't turn out to work during the busy season, they are charged 2 bitts house-rent. The cash for payment of wages is got from the Chinese shop-keeper. The advantage of this is that the estate cannot tell exactly what money to get from town, so the shop-keeper supplies it. For this his shop rent, which was formerly $45, has been reduceed to $20. Christmas present to coolies—25 sheep, 25 bags of rice, 3 tons of sugar and dál. There is a musjid on the estate, and the muezzin is shouted every morning and evening. A cooly boy of another estate has paid a black pan boiler $100 to teach him to work the vacuum pan.

Hospital.—A very large double-floored building, with the usual out-offices.

Patients—

Males	14
Females	4
Boys	15
Girls	12
Total ...	45

All trivial cases. The hospital has 104 beds. Any one is admitted from the villages round if he brings a certificate from the Poor Law Board. Having completed my visit to this estate, I returned to Cornelia Ida and obtained information on various points from the Hon'ble C. Ross, the manager, which occupied me till 5-30 P.M.

Task gangs.—The abolition of re-indenture has driven many coolies off the estate; they have gone into the villages, and their habits are becoming assimilated to that of the blacks. They will not work on Mondays or Tuesdays, and in fact do only about three days' work in a week. I sent for and had a talk with Sukhanut, who is a wealthy cooly, formerly a driver on this estate, but who now keeps a shop near. He says every one is very happy here, and there is no difficulty either as regards wages or food, which is cheaper than it used to be; but owing to stricter supervision more work is done now than formerly.

28TH JULY 1891.

Visited estate *Philadelphia.* Acreage now cultivated 782. No indentured coolies. Free coolies 760. Children 160 and non-effective included. There are over 100 cows on the estate, but I do not seem to have made a note as to whether pasturage is free or not. I saw a musjid on the estate, the materials of which were furnished free by the estate. It is handsomely furnished with plush-bordered mirrors and glass chandeliers. I also saw the hospital and dwellings of the immigrants. Chand Khan's house is furnished in the English style with tables, chairs, a bureau, table-cloth, lounge chairs, sofa, lamps and mirrors. The head driver, Edun, has a cattle farm and provision ground called Khamari, which he values at $15,000; there are 1,875 acres, and it is freehold property. Accompanied by the Manager of Philadelphia we passed through Edun's farm; much of it is well cultivated in plantains, cassava, and Indian-corn and okras. Some of it is still in forest, and he is cutting cord wood. He also grows yams, castor-oil, cocoanuts, and tanias. We passed many fields of Indian-corn and numerous plantain groves. Chand Khan, 2nd driver on Philadelphia, has a cattle farm, called Ruby, leased for 20 years, of about 500 acres. Provisions are also grown on this farm. There are also some huts built at intervals on this estate. We passed through Bushey Park Estate, which is largely let out to coolies, who settle on it and grow provisions, and build houses and graze their cattle. We went on to Parika, about six miles from Philadelphia, which is a large cooly settlement, who live by cultivating provision grounds and rearing cattle. From henceforward for 20 miles coolies are settled along the Essequibo river. None of these people work on sugar estates, except those living near in Parika, who now and then do a few days' work. In Cocorite beyond Look Out a large number of coolies are settled. Rood en Rust is another settlement for provision grounds and cocoanuts. Having gone through this settlement and seen the method of living and cultivating of the ground, Mr. Straker and I returned to Philadelphia, and I left at 1-30 P.M. for Vergonoogen.

28TH JULY 1892.

Vergonoogen.—Owned by Mr. Craigen. Manager Mr. Moir.

	Males.	Females.
Indentured coolies	71	30
Free do.	...	...
Madras do.	25	16
Children	47	43

Hospital of the usual type. Patients—males 7, females 2. One case of Bright's disease; all the rest slight sickness. The dwellings are cool, comfortable and water-tight, well roofed and drained, and surroundings clean. Pasturage free. There are about 120 cows.

Farming.—192 acres are cultivated by coolies and a few blacks in "ground provisions." Rent charged is 80 cents a month.

Rations.—Portuguese shop-keeper supplies rations at 10 cents a ration. The overseer and driver attend the shop daily and see the rations weighed out. Free rations are given for the first three and last two weeks. Only the articles provided by ordinance are allowed to be taken as rations. Week's trust money is never kept back.

Extra rations.—None. There are several shops—3 Chinese, 2 Portuguese, and 3 or 4 cooly shops—selling dry provisions. The amount of each week's pay is advanced by the Portuguese shop-keeper, for which he is excused $20 from his rent. As soon as payments are made, on the same day a cheque is given to the shop-keeper for the amount. All other money for the estate is advanced by him. Implements and cooking pots are given free on first arrival, also 1 or 2 lb of tobacco and biscuits, and a barrel of sugar. During the first week no regular work is given, but immigrants are put at odd jobs like carrying wood, &c. Nearly all the work in the buildings is done by "blacks." Immigrants are never fined. I saw the pay-lists. The indentured immigrant is shown as "p" or "a" daily. The free immigrants have their money earned entered once a week. A separate *deference* book is kept.

School.—There is a school belonging to the Presbyterian Mission. The building belongs to the estate. Out of 90 children only 8 or 10 go to school. This is another estate on this coast which has wood, water, and pasturage in any quantity required by coolies, and is therefore one on which they settle and remain permanently. Having completed my visit to this estate, I returned to Georgetown in the evening, having driven over 32 miles.

29TH JULY 1891.

The outgoing mail leaves to-morrow morning.

Occupied in the morning in preparing letters for the Administrator, St. Lucia, the Colonial Secretary, Jamaica, and the British Consuls at Martinique and Guadeloupe, asking for certain information. Interviewed M. Ledoux, the Vice-Consul for France, and obtained information respecting steamers to Surinam and Cayenne, and accompanied him to the office in Georgetown to see maps of Nickerie on the other side of the Corentyne river in Dutch Guiana, at which place he informed me there were some estates and indentured coolies. I saw Mr. Alexander at the Immigration Office, and arranged with him to go to Suddie to-morrow for two days. Called on the Lieutenant-Governor at his office, who kindly ordered a special steamer for this trip, and promised to write to the Dutch Governor respecting my visiting Nickerie from Berbice in British territory.

30TH JULY 1891.

The Lieutenant-Governor having kindly placed a small steamer at my disposal, I arranged with the Hon'ble A. H. Alexander, Immigration Agent-General, a trip to the islands of Leguan and Wakinaam and to go on to Suddie on the Essequibo river. I left with Mr. Alexander and Mr. Straker at 7 A.M., and after a pleasant run arrived at the island of Leguan about ten o'clock, where we went ashore and were met by the Manager of Maryville, Mr. Leslie, and the Medical Officer of the island, Dr. Earle.

Maryville, Leguan Island, Esequibo river.—I saw the cooly barracks; they are of the best pattern and quite new, 10 x 16 feet, galvanized roofs, close planked, verandahs with cooking places, eave and ridge ventilator. Six iron tanks of 400 gallons to one range for the storage of drinking water. The hospital is of the usual pattern, to hold 68 patients. Patients to-day—males 25, females 9. Of these, 7 males and 1 female are indentured. Not a single case of acute disease. There is a segregation ward in the second storey.

Number of coolies on estate—

	Males.	Females.
Indentured ...	183	67
Free ...	323	201 including Madrassis.
	Boys.	Girls.
Children ...	154	126

Rations.—The overseer and the driver see the rations distributed. Tobacco, soap, kerosine oil, and matches given free for the first month, but they are never substituted for any portion of the ration. The ration given is that of 1873, viz., 1½ lb rice. Eight cents is charged for the ration by the Chinese shop-keeper. Implements, cooking pots, are given free, and also rations for the first week, and buckets, padlock and chain and lamp (chirag). There is no school. None of the children go to school. There is a school in the village about half a mile off, but none of the estate children go to it. Two nurses are paid by the estate to look after the infants and young children, and there is a nursery for them, where they are kept while their mothers are at work in the fields. There are three shops on the estate kept by Chinese and Portuguese. Two of these shops sell rum. The coolies do not give any trouble from this cause. Indentured coolies work half day on Monday and half day on Saturday; therefore they do five days' work in the week. Of the free coolies some work five days and others less. They do not work at all on Monday, and only half a day on Tuesday.

Buildings.—All work in the buildings is done by coolies, except that of engineer and firemen and stokers. No women are employed in the factory buildings.

Pasturage.—There is no grass land on the estate, but there is an abandoned estate alongside, to which the immigrants send their cows and pay 80 cents a month per cow. They own about 100 cows. There is plenty of wood on the estate, which the immigrants can use as they like. Some free coolies on the island own cattle farms, and some have taken an abandoned sugar estate, "Endeavour," about 600 acres, for growing provisions and grazing their cattle. The wealthiest cooly on the island keeps a provision shop and is worth a great deal of money. He told the manager that the coolies on this estate owe him $6,000. He charges enormously for rice, interest, &c. *Convalescent gang* is kept up all the year round. The immigrants are employed round the house or in the garden or on any light work, and they get 6*d.* or 8*d.* a day.

Pay-lists.– Shovel gang.—The amount earned is entered daily, and the manager says it has always been done on all estates he has been on, and there is no difficulty about it. Payments are hardly ever made to any one else but the worker, except to his wife, as the manager says it leads to great trouble. No deference book is kept. No fines are made. There have been 35 cases before the Magistrate this year up to date—all for neglecting to begin or for not finishing work. The punishments appear to meet the offences.

This may be taken as a model estate except as regards the giving rations on an obsolete scale instead of that at present prescribed. There is absolutely nothing which I have seen which is not strictly in accordance with the Immigration Ordinance. The manager is a man of great experience, and is kindly and considerate to the coolies, and I have nothing but admiration to express for his management.

Education of children.—A noticeable feature on this estate is the absence of any scheme for the education of the children. There are 280 children on the estate, and although there is a school in the neighbouring village, none of them attend it. In this colony education is not compulsory, but managers usually make some arrangements for the attendance of children either at a school on the estate or in the neighbourhood. Some managers insist on the attendance at school of children of a certain age for a portion of the day, and many estates give considerable sums to the support of schools, and others provide the building or the pay of the teacher. Notwithstanding all these generous and well-meant efforts, I think it must be allowed that the attendance of East Indian children is not at all commensurate with the large sums which are spent for that purpose. Most Indian parents working on estates appear profoundly indifferent to the education of their children. If the manager insists on it, they send their children to school, but they do not seem to care at all what they are taught, or if Christian teaching forms part or not of the daily routine. Parents usually prefer that their children shall earn a few pence daily at light work. Mothers, however, seem to see the advantage of having a place to which they can send very young children, who are too small to earn

anything by labour, to be out of harm's way while the mothers are at work in the fields, and these very small children form a large proportion of those met with in schools.

At 12-30 we continued our voyage up the river, passing several islands. One of them, Hog Island, was formerly cultivated in sugar, but was abandoned about seven years ago on account of its unhealthiness and the prevalence of malarious fever. The soil is of extraordinary richness, and used to yield as much as four tons to the acre; a number of free coolies living in Leguan cross in boats and cultivate the land for themselves. A number of coolies also have farms in Troolie Island; they live in Wakinaam and cross when necessary. Arrived at Wakinaam about 2 P.M., and drove one mile to Marionville.

Marionville—

Hospital for 40 beds. Patients to-day—

	Males.	Females.
Indentured	4	5
Free	7	3
	Boy.	Girl.
Children	1	1
Outsiders	...	1

All trivial cases.
There are some very large iron tanks for the storage of rain water.
Iron beds and plenty of mattresses and clean bedding.

Coolies on the estate—

	Males.	Females.
Indentured	126	43
Free	245	108
Madrassi	28	16
	Boys.	Girls.
Children	59	55

Deserters.—Ten deserted since 1887.

Pay-lists.—Entries of amounts earned are made once or twice a week. Stoppages of pay are made from free coolies and blacks and shown in the cash accounts. Janu, an indentured cooly, was stopped $1·92 for cow found in No. 9B.P., week ending 19th November 1890.

Cocoa.—Fifty acres planted in 1882. Last year's yield 30 bags. Nine coolies employed to-day on cocoa—3 trimming trees and 6 weeding. Men at 1*s.* and women at 8*d.* Payment of wages is made regularly every week.

Pasturage.—2*s.* a month is charged for grown cattle. There are on the estate 57 cows, 19 heifers, 4 steer, 30 calves—all belonging to immigrants. There is no school on the estate. There is a school in the village. Average attendance of estate Indian children, 32. $5 a month is given by the estate towards the pay of the schoolmaster.

Rations.—The estate works the rations at a loss. They are supplied by the Chinese shop-keeper. Convalescent coolies are also rationed free until fit for work. If the coolies wish to take tobacco instead of a portion of their ration, they are allowed to do so. The overseer says if they have enough rice and peas at home for their dinner, they are allowed to take tobacco or any other thing up to the value of the rice or peas which they do not require. On first allotment they are given free implements, cooking pots, bucket, lantern, padlock, and one week's rations at the beginning of the three months. The case of Janu, the indentured immigrant who had 8*s.* stopped from his pay for allowing his cow to stray in the cane piece, is the first case I have noticed in this colony of stoppage of pay by the estate from an indentured cooly, and I am sure the custom is almost unknown. The overseer says on this estate stoppages from indentured coolies are very rare. I notice those from free coolies are frequent, but for small amounts. I saw the barracks; some are of the new authorized type and others old and shingle roofed. Having completed my visit to this estate, we returned to the steamer and left for Suddie. On the right we passed Tiger Island with the sugar estate of Hamburg. At about 5 P.M. we arrived opposite the stelling (landing-stage) of Suddie, which is the head-quarters of Essequibo and of the officials of that country. There are many handsome public buildings, and the private residences are numerous. All the houses are built of wood and have ground attached, which gives the place a pretty and picturesque appearance. The roads of burnt earth are excellent. We drove through Airy Hall and Riverstown and out to Huis t'Dieren. There were numbers of coolies settled along the road, growing cocoanuts, cassava and small patches of rice. It appears that Huis t'Dieren was a settlement formed by Government some years ago with the object of providing immigrants who had completed their ten years' residence with land in lieu of a return passage; many took this land, but for some reason the settlement did not thrive. I therefore interviewed some of the settlers to find out why so many of them had left the settlement. They said that they were sent there and found themselves without money to buy food, so they began to work on the neighbouring estate and did little towards clearing the land. They found a great number of cocoanut trees there, and lived on these for some time, making and selling oil; then they cut down the trees for firewood and afterwards abandoned their holdings. Some of them still remain and grow rice and ground provisions. Those I saw, however, did not appear to me to be of the class to make successful settlers. I saw the Manager of Adventure, an old estate abandoned some 30 or 40 years ago, which has now been taken up, and about 200 coolies are employed from the Riverstown and Huis t'Dieren settlements. Having

seen these settlements, and it being 6 P.M., we drove to the Colony House, a Government residence for visiting judges and officials, and slept there.

31ST JULY 1891.

I visited the local gaol, which is managed on the same lines as the Georgetown gaol. The following are the numbers of East Indians confined there:—

		Males.	Females.
Under trial ...	...	3	...
Supreme Criminal Court ...	...	12	...
Under Labour Laws ...	...	26	1
Hard labour ...	...	7	...
Total	...	48	1

We then drove six miles along the coast, passing through numerous villages occupied by coolies and "blacks." The most part of these work on the neighbouring estates. At 10 A.M. we arrived at "*Estate L'Union.*"

Hospital for 49 patients. To-day there are 16 males.
5 females.
2 children.
—
23
—

The servants' quarters and mortuary are under the hospital—an unusual arrangement No acute cases. I saw the vaccination book; none done since May 1890.

Pasturage.—The coolies have about 150 cows. They are charged 1*s.* 4*d.* a month, and three cowkeepers are found by the estate for the coolies' cattle. There are no farms or coolies' lands aback. Any immigrant may make a garden round his house, and land is given for the purpose. Plenty of wood is obtainable from the bush, and the coolies may take as much as they like. Implements, cooking pots, padlock and chain are supplied free on first arrival. The new coolies are fed for three months without charge on first arrival. The food is supplied for them and cooked by the estate. Only rice, dál and salt are supplied free; the other articles of the ration they find themselves out of their pay. Light work is given until they get accustomed to the work; but the strong, as soon as they see the shovel gang making more money, prefer to join them.

Plantation L'Union, Essequibo.—Shovel gang (indentured coolies) earnings for the week ending—

3rd July 1891—	10th July—	17th July—	24th July—
$48·56.	$54·24.	$24·72.	$32·84.
32 people working.	29 people working.	24 people working.	28 people working.
34 absent days.	35 absent days.	39 absent days.	37 absent days.
Average 30 cents daily for each cooly for days on which work was actually performed.	Average 39 cents daily.	Average 23⅓ cents daily.	Daily average 25 cents.

There is no school on the estate, but $4 a month is given towards the pay of a schoolmaster in the village. Average attendance about 12 or 14 daily. A woman is kept to take the small children to school, and two old women are paid to look after infants of mothers who are at work. In the building the coolies do not do any of the high class work which is done by blacks.

Barracks.—There are several types of dwellings, many of them of the newest and approved style. There is ample accommodation for all the immigrants on the estate. The drinking water is stored in large vats. *Extra work* is paid for by the rod and not by the hour—*vide* Ordinance. There are 3 shops on the estate—2 Chinese and 1 Portuguese. All the money on the estate, except the town expenses, are obtained from the Portuguese shop-keeper, who gets his shop rent reduced $15 a month.

Domestics.—All the house servants are cooly boys, except the black nurse. They are all Hindus. The boys who come to the colony young have very little notion of caste.

Medicine sold.—All the people on the estate get their medicine and attendance free, but the medicine used to be sold to villagers, including coolies, at a rate fixed by the Medical Officer to cover expenses. For this a license was necessary of $4 a year. This practice has been discontinued for the last year. Cocoa was tried without success; 60 acres were planted in 1886, and it is now being abandoned. This was on new land, and not on that on which sugar had been grown. Contracts were given to coolies and blacks for three years to plant cocoa

and cultivate the ground, a form of which is attached. They paid $12 a year, and the estate provided the plants. The following is a specimen of a contract with a free cooly :—

Contract entered into between an Indian Immigrant and the Attorney of an Estate in British Guiana for the cultivation of "Cocoa."

AGREEMENT OF LEASE made and entered into in the county of Essequibo in the colony of British Guiana, between WILLIAM CRAIGEN as Attorney of the *L'Union* Estate Company, Limited, Proprietors of Pln. *L'Union, cum annexis*, situate on the west coast of the said county of Essequibo (hereinafter called the Lessors), of the one part, and Paraag, a "free" cooly of the said county of Essequibo (hereinafter called the Lessee), of the other part. *Whereas* in consideration of the rent, covenants, conditions and agreements hereinafter reserved and contained on the part of the Lessee to be paid, observed and performed, the Lessors have agreed with the Lessee in manner following, that is to say :—

1. To demise and lease to the Lessee, as they do hereby demise and lease to him, and the said Lessee has agreed to demise and take on lease from the Lessors, as he doth hereby demise and take on lease from them, all that piece or allotment of land known as Lot No. 39, being part of the lands belonging to Pln. *L'Union*, situated in the N. W. corner of said Plantation, bounded on the north by the Capoey Creek and lands belonging to *Taymouth Manor;* on the south by lands known as *Westfield* and part of the said Pln. *L'Union;* on the east by the present back dam of *Alliance;* and on the west by Crown Lands, and which is hereinafter called and designated "The said Lot:" to have and to hold the said Lot unto the said Lessee for the full term of three years, to commence from the 1st day of August 1887, and to be fully completed and ended on the 31st day of July 1890, yielding and paying, therefor, the rent hereinafter specified.

2. The Lessee shall pay as rent for the said Lot, from and after the 1st day of May 1888, the sum of eighty-eight cents per month in advance on the first Monday of each month during the continuance of this lease, and on the signing of this agreement, the sum of one dollar shall be paid by the Lessee on account of such rent.

3. The Lessee shall, immediately on the execution hereof, clear the said Lot of all wood and bush and shall dig all the small drains around and intersecting the said Lot two feet deep and one foot and a half wide, and shall dig the "four foot" four feet wide and three feet deep, within one month from the signing of these presents; and shall, during the existence of this lease, keep the said land and the drains and "four foot" clear and free of grass and weeds; and shall also once a year, during the continuance of this lease, that is to say, in the month of August in each year, dig one foot out of all such drains and four foot; all the earth dug out of such drains and four foot shall be deposited in the centre of the beds in the said Lot and backed and levelled. All of the above work to be done under the inspection and to the satisfaction of the Lessors.

4. The Lessee shall, within two months after the execution hereof, at his own cost and expense, plant up the whole of the said Lot in plantains, at not less than 300 trees to the acre; and may also plant Tannias and a small quantity of sweet cassava; but he shall not plant any bitter cassava or grass of any description in the said Lot; such trees and provisions shall be planted in such manner as the Lessors shall direct.

5. The Lessors shall have the right at all reasonable times to go in and upon the said Lot and to plant therein such and so many cocoa trees and shade trees as they may think proper; provided, however, that not more than 350 cocoa trees and 50 shade trees shall be planted to the acre.

6. The Lessee shall be bound and obliged, as he hereby binds and obliges himself in consideration of the premises, to keep such cocoa trees at all times free from grass, vines and weeds, and to mould around them and supply fresh trees in place of those dying, and to do all such other work thereto as may be required and directed to be done by the Lessors.

7. At the expiration of the term hereby granted, the Lessors shall pay to the Lessee the sum of ten dollars for each and every hundred, and proportionately for any less number of full-grown and healthy cocoa trees in the said Lot by way of compensation for the work to be done by him in relation to such trees as aforesaid.

8. The Lessors shall at all usual and reasonable times give the Lessee full and complete drainage for the said Lot through the usual draining trenches and kokers of the said Plantation; provided, however, and this covenant is expressly subject to these conditions, that if from a heavy rainfall or from any other cause over which the Lessors have no control, or from any breach in the dams or kokers of the said Plantation, without, as respects the two latter, any negligence or default of the Lessors, any portion or the whole of the provisions then being and growing in the said Lot shall be damaged or wholly lost to the Lessee; or if from such rainfall or other causes or breaches it shall be deemed necessary to place any stop-offs or other obstructions in the draining trenches of the said Plantation, in order to save the works or any of the buildings connected with the manufacture of sugar on the said Plantation, any damage or injury shall result from any such obstructions to the cultivation then being and growing on the said Lot, the Lessors shall in none of the events aforesaid be liable to the Lessee in respect of such damage, loss or injury; anything in any law or ordinance or custom to the contrary notwithstanding.

9. The Lessors either by themselves or by their Agent or Representative shall be at liberty at all reasonable times to enter in and upon the said Lot and to examine into the

actual state and condition thereof and of the cocoa trees growing thereon, and if upon such examination it shall be found that the said Lot is not being cultivated in manner aforesaid; or that the work required to be done therein and to the said cocoa trees, as hereinbefore specified, shall not have been properly done and performed, it shall be lawful for the Lessors or such Agent or Representative to give notice in writing, or partly in writing and partly in print, to the Lessee, or if he cannot be found, to affix the same to some conspicuous object on the said Lot, stating therein in what respect the said Lot is not being so cultivated, or such work to the said Lot and to the said cocoa trees has not been so done and performed, and requiring the Lessee, within 14 days from the service of such notice, to commence to cultivate and to continue the cultivation of the said Lot in the manner aforesaid, or to do and perform such work; and if on the expiration of such time the Lessee shall not have commenced to cultivate such Lot, or to do and perform such work to the said Lot or to the said cocoa trees, or having commenced to cultivate such Lot or to do and perform such work shall suspend the same without reasonable cause therefor being shown to the satisfaction of the Lessors, then and in either of the cases aforesaid, it shall be lawful for the Lessors to enter upon and re-take possession of the said Lot and of all the crops then being and growing thereon, and to dispose of the same as they may think proper without being liable to make any compensation to the Lessee in respect of the same or of the said cocoa trees.

10. The Lessee shall, at all times whilst on the said Lot, conduct himself in a decent and orderly manner, and shall not disturb or molest any of the other Lessees; and in the event of the Lessee being convicted of stealing any of the property of the Lessors, or of the other Lessees, he shall forfeit all right to the said Lot and to compensation, and to the crops then being and growing thereon; and the Lessors may take possession thereof and dispose of the same as they may think fit, and the Lessee shall have no claim whatever against them for compensation or otherwise in respect thereof. For the purpose of ascertaining whether or not a theft has been committed by the Lessee, it shall be lawful for the Lessors or their authorised Agent in that behalf to detain any property which the Lessee may be found conveying, or in possession of, and which may reasonably be supposed to have been stolen, for such time as will permit of enquiries being made in respect thereto.

11. The Lessee shall not be at liberty to sublet any part of the said Lot, or to assign his right, title and interest in this lease to any other person, without the express consent in writing of the Lessors being first had and obtained.

12. If the Lessee fail to pay the rent hereby stipulated to be paid by him on the tenth day of the month following that in which it is made payable as hereinbefore stipulated, or to observe, fulfil and perform the several covenants, stipulations, conditions and agreements hereinbefore contained, it shall be lawful for the Lessors to declare this lease at an end and for ever determined; and thereupon they shall be entitled to enter upon and re-take possession of the said Lot and crops then being and growing thereon without giving any compensation to the Lessee, and therefrom and thereout to eject the Lessee in the same manner as if he were a trespasser; the provisions of sub-section 3 of Section 2 of Ordinance 27 of 1880, and all other Law or Ordinance or Custom, to the contrary notwithstanding.

13. The Lessee paying the rent hereinbefore reserved and made payable and fulfilling all and singular the covenants, regulations and agreements hereinbefore contained on his part to be paid, observed and fulfilled, shall and may peaceably and quietly have hold and enjoy the said lot hereby leased during the continuance of this lease without any suit, eviction, let, or hindrance whatever, by or on the part of the Lessors or any person or persons whomsoever lawfully claiming or pretending to claim by, under or in trust for them.

14. In the event of any dispute or difference either as to any matter or thing herein contained or as to the true intent, meaning and effect of any part of this agreement arising, such dispute or difference shall be referred to the Arbitration of two disinterested persons, one to be chosen by the Lessors and the other by the Lessee, with power to such arbitrators in case of difference between them to appoint an umpire, and the decision of such arbitrators or of such umpire shall be final and binding on the Lessors and Lessee.

15. All the provisions and stipulations of this agreement shall extend to and be binding on the heirs, executors, administrators and representatives of the Lessee in the event of his death, in the same manner as the Lessee himself would have been bound thereby had he lived.

In witness whereof the Lessors and Lessee have signed these presents, this 7th day of May 1888, in presence of the subscribing witnesses.

Witnesses:—

Paraag his × mark

HUGH SMITH,

A. O. B., Cameron.

J. M. DAWSON,

For WILLIAM CRAIGEN.

After completing my visit to this estate, Mr. Alexander and I drove on to Anna Regina, about six miles. Mr. Gilzean, the Manager, being out at the back of the estate, where a dam had broken, we drove on to Hampton Court, about four miles further. On the way we passed several villages of coolies who appear to be living in some comfort.

They have made themselves wooden or "trash" huts (huts covered with palm leaves). The names of the villages are as follows :—

Henrietta.		La Belle Alliance.
Richmond.		Lenia.
	Daniel's Town.	

There are patches of rice cultivation by the side of the road as well as ground provisions.

31st July 1891.

Hampton Court, belonging to the Hampton Court Company, Limited.

Mr. Kearns, Manager.

	Males.	Females.
Indentured coolies	167	69
Free do.	324	216
Madrassi do.	9	1
Children	139	134
Ditto Madras	2	2

There is a school on the estate supported by the estate with a grant from Government. About 30 to 35 children go to school daily from the estate. Some of them are big boys 14 or 15 years old.

Pasturage.—There is any amount of pasturage for coolies' cows, of which there are 400. Nothing is charged for pasturage, but the immigrants have to find their own stock-minders, which comes to about 8 cents a month.

Farms.—A few have land, about 8 or 10 acres, which they cultivate in ground provisions. There is no rice now under cultivation. When the season is favourable they have the right of cultivating as much savannah land as they like, perhaps 50 or 60 acres in a favourable year, on which they plant rice. Implements, cooking pots, clothing (petticoat and jacket for women and shirt and trousers for men), soap, tobacco, kerosine oil, and 1 lb of sugar, are given free when they first arrive. They also get a bucket, lamp, and padlock free.

Rations.—They get the old ration of 1½ lb of rice, which is served out in the presence of the driver, and sometimes the overseer. The two shop-keepers take it in turn to supply the rations, for which they charge 12 cents each, of which 8 cents is charged to the immigrants. The immigrants are not allowed to take anything in lieu of their rations. The Chinese shop-keeper advances all the money for payment on the estate, and for this he gets his house rent-free. There is no such thing as a deference book. Deferences are always paid during the next week, and there are no stoppages or fines of any sort. There are about two cases a month sent before the Magistrate. Coolies are allowed to cut as much wood as they like. There are a number of new ranges of the authorized pattern, and some older ones—all in good order. This is a very favourite estate with coolies, and they are treated liberally and well in every way. Like many of the estates on this coast, everything seems to have been done to gain the goodwill and confidence of the immigrants and induce them to settle on the estate. After finishing my visit to Hampton Court we returned to Anna Regina, and were hospitably entertained by our kind hosts, Mr. and Mrs. Gilzean. We slept the night there, and the next morning rode round to the coolies' rice fields, their own property, which we found them cultivating in exactly the same way as in India, with this difference, that, owing to the even temperature, no heed is taken of the season of the year, and rice is grown all the year round; as soon as one crop is off the ground another is put in, and three crops are reaped during the year. All the processes of rice cultivation may be seen going on side by side at the same time. On one spot the ground is being prepared, on another the rice is being planted, on a third it is seen half grown, and on a fourth the coolies are cutting the ripe crop. A never-failing and abundant supply of water is obtained from the estate trenches, from which it is conducted on to the rice ground in iron pipes. The rice grown is of a very superior quality and fetches a high price. As compared with the price of Rangoon rice, it is as 11s. to 6s.

1st August 1891.

Anna Regina.—

J. C. Edwards Moss, M.P. for Willnes, Lancashire, owner.
A. R. Gilzean, Esq., Manager.

	Males.	Females.
Indentured coolies	1	...
Free coolies	431	208
	148	84
	Boys.	Girls.
Children	125	104
Do.	64	43

Acreage 1,000, averaging 2,000 tons of sugar. There is a school on the estate. Average attendance of cooly children about 100.

Pasturage.—There are 572 cows and calves, 6 horses, and 2 mules, besides goats belonging to coolies. Workers on the estate are charged 1s. a month and outsiders 2s. 8d.

Rice cultivation.—Ninety-three acres are let out to coolies, each averaging ¼ acre. There are also 8 acres free, which are cultivated in rice. 11⅝ acres are let to outsiders. Workers on the estate pay $12 a year and outsiders $ 24. About 400 coolies are cultivating their own rice.

Farming.—About 60 acres are let out to free coolies and villagers for growing ground provisions at $ 12 a year.

Pay-lists.—Money earned is entered on one day in the week. Payments are made weekly. There is only one indentured cooly on the estate, but all the free coolies get hospital accommodation and medical attendance free. There is an excellent hospital. To-day there are 27 patients, all free, and the indentured cooly. Outsiders are taken in on payment of 32 cents for adults and 16 cents for children, including medicine and medical attendance. There are three shops on the estate—two Portuguese and one Chinese. The Portuguese supplies all the money for the estate, and his rent is reduced $ 30 a month. There are a great number of cooly pedlars living on the estate.

Building lots.—A number of coolies have bought building lots on the estate. Sixty-nine coolies have bought 48⅝ lots at an average price of £27 for a lot of 7 roods × 10 roods, nearly ¼ acre, or at the rate of £100 an acre. This gives the right to perpetual drainage and water from the estate's trenches and pipes. They pay no taxes, and the estate keeps up the sea defences and the public road. Some of these lots are sublet by the coolies. Cocoa was tried, but failed.

Barracks.—There is ample accommodation for all the coolies in well-built and drained barracks. I visited Henrietta village, in which the coolies have taken building lots. Some of the houses built by the coolies are exceedingly comfortable and even pretty in appearance, surrounded by well-kept gardens.

The buildings in these villages are worth five times as much as the cost of the land, high as it is.

Cases before the Magistrate.—Not a case since 1888.

In 1888	...	...	...	...	1
„ 1887	...	...	...	...	2
„ 1886	...	...	...	...	2

There are no punishments on the estate for petty offences. Free coolies own vans which require five mules to each van, and each van requires a capital of $ 1,000.

					$
Five mules at	...	...	...	...	160
Van and harness	...	...	...	...	200

This is the best estate I have seen from the coolies' point of view. They have everything they can possibly wish for, and are making money in every direction. As showing how an estate can be managed without coercion, this estate is the most remarkable I have visited. There are absolutely no punishments for petty offences and no cases before the Magistrate. The immigrants have so many concessions that it is quite sufficient to warn them that some of them may be discontinued. I have now visited the length and breadth of sugar cultivations and cooly settlements on the Arabisi coast. Beyond Hampton Court and its annexure Devonshire Castle there is no further cultivation in that direction. I have been very much pleased at what I have seen on this coast. The management of the coolies is conducted with liberality, consideration, and kindness. Many most valuable concessions are made to them as inducements for them to settle and work on the estate, and the system appears to work admirably. They have all the advantages on the estate most dear to the cooly's heart—unlimited pasturage for his cows, wood in plenty for the trouble of cutting, and as much rice land as he likes to cultivate.

We left Anna Regina at 11 A.M. to return to Suddie. Between Anna Regina and Suddie we passed the following villages occupied by free coolies and black:—Reliance, Three Friends, Aberdeen, Queenstown, Johanna Cecilia, Maria's Lodge. At 12-30 P.M. I visited the Suddie Public Hospital—51 beds. This was built by the Government for an hotel. There are two stories: the upper occupied by two wards, male and female, and the lower ward by males. There are to-day East Indians, "free coolies," 20 males, 7 females. The beds are of iron, with plenty of clean bedding and mattresses. Each bed has a table by its side and a bed-head ticket. The dining tables are at the sides of the wards. There are plenty of rocking chairs and some pictures on the walls. The whole place is very bright, cheerful, and airy. I saw the latrines, which are separated from the main building by an open gallery. The cases are none of them very serious. I saw the dispensary. Dr. Smart, the Medical Officer, kindly accompanied me over the hospital. There is an enclosure of 1½ or 2 acres surrounded by a paling. At 1-30 P.M. we left in the steamer for Georgetown, at which place we arrived at 6 P.M.

2ND AUGUST 1891, SUNDAY.

3RD AUGUST 1891, BANK HOLIDAY.

Occupied from 7 to 9 A.M. in writing up diaries and entering results of visits to estates under their proper headings.

Afternoon.—Belfield races.

At this point my eyes, which had been very painful from the great glare and constant reading and writing in the sun, gave out altogether, and I was obliged to wear two pairs of coloured glasses and two veils. The Governor and Lady Bruce were most kind and suggested accompanying them to Government House, Massaruni, up the Essequibo river, and taking a holiday, to which I was very glad to accede, and spent a delightful week with Sir Charles Bruce and his party.

11TH AUGUST 1891.

Engaged in going over returns received from Trinidad by last mail, of occupations of East Indians and the Census Return of British Guiana, received from the Registrar-General. In the afternoon I went to the Immigration Agent-General's house and discussed various points noticed by me on estates. I also interviewed Mr. W. Darnell Davis, Secretary to the Royal Agricultural and Commercial Society, and formerly Secretary to the Mauritius and Demerara Immigration Commissions.

12TH AUGUST 1891.

Wrote to Hon'ble C. Mitchell, Protector of Immigrants, Trinidad, asking him for specimen sheets of pay-lists, and also as to the cause of strike on Colonial Company's estates mentioned by him in his last letter. Engaged in comparing note books with fair copies by Mr. Daly, my Secretary. In the afternoon I went by train to the estate of La Bonne Intention, on the East Coast.

La Bonne Intention—

F. V. McConnell, E. C. Luard } Proprietors.

Acreage in cultivation, 675.

			Males.	Females.
Indentured coolies	...	...	138	70
Free do.	...	...	208	79
			Boys.	Girls.
Children ...	...	...	45	43

There is a school on the estate maintained by the estate, and also one in the neighbouring village, but no children go to school.

Pasturage.—The whole of the front lands, about 500 acres, are used by them. Only the cost of two stock-minders, 14*s.*, is charged to the coolies, and comes to 4*d.* or 6*d.* a head a month. Although there has been cattle disease of an infectious and fatal nature up to now on neighbouring estates on both sides, with a loss of 20 to 40 head on each estate, there has not been a single case on La Bonne Intention. The disease attacks mules as well. Mr. Luard attributes this to the submersion of the pasture with fresh water. There are 163 head of cattle belonging to coolies on the estate.

Rations.—The old ration of 1873 is given. The Chinese shop-keeper supplies the rations at nine cents each. Substitution of other articles for portion of the ration is not allowed.

Deferences and fines.—There is a separate deferment book, and also a separate fine book; but the latter is principally for blacks in the buildings. Coolies are very rarely fined. Only one cooly has, so far as I can find, been fined since April, and he a free cooly, a watchman. There have been three cases before the Magistrate this year for desertion. Women are never summoned. Implements, bucket, padlock and key are given free on first arrival. Rations are free up to the time they begin to work, generally three or four days. Wood and kerosine oil are given for a day or two. A system of "farming" exists in connection with this estate, the canes being grown, however, free from all supervision on the part of the estate authorities. When the owners of these canes wish to cut them, they notify to the estate that they have canes sufficient to occupy the mills for four or five days' grinding. The manager arranges a day, and the estate supplies the punts and mules, charging six cents per punt inclusive of mules and boys to drive. The owners of the canes are paid two cents a gallon for juice, polarising 100 by Dr. Bosch's soleil, when the selling price in London for dark sugar is three cents per lb; if more, proportional pay is made. At present only two coolies are farming in this way. Baron and Triump, the next estates, are let out for cane farming and plantain growing. These estates have never been planted in sugar, and there are no factories on them. The back lands are poor, but improving with drainage. The bulk of the land is very fine indeed, but not made proper use of. There are a good many coolies living in the front villages who hire plots of land and grow provisions. They work partly on their own land, and partly on sugar estates. This system is a good one as keeping the coolies near the sugar cultivation. I saw the pay-books; work done on four or five days in the week, sometimes less. Having completed my visit to this estate I returned to Georgetown by train.

A gentleman, whose name unfortunately has escaped my memory, and who is preparing a history of British Guiana, was good enough to write the following letter on the subject of the commencement of Indian emigration, which I give *in extenso*:—

DEAR SIR,

The story of cooly immigration in British Guiana is a very long one, and will take up two or three chapters of my history; but I can give you a short outline of the main facts.

In view of the coming emancipation of the slaves in 1838, the planters tried their very best to get agricultural labourers from other countries, among these being negroes from the West Indian islands, Maltese, Madeirians and Indian coolies. The first note I have in regard to

Indian coolies is of the arrival of the *Hesperus* on May 5th, 1838, ninety days from Calcutta, with 156 hill coolies—only six women, a medical officer, and two interpreters. Ten died of diarrhœa on the voyage, and two committed suicide. The local legislature refused to allow any bounty on these, although such was being granted to those who imported other immigrants. The "*Gazette*" said the circumstances of that importation were likely to bring trouble. Another vessel sailed for Berbice, fourteen days before the *Hesperus*. *Gazette* of May 8th said immigration without women immoral; too many men in the colony already; this will not be suffered to continue; society will be making an outcry.

A letter was sent to the "*Gazette*," dated Calcutta, January 8th, 1838, by the firm of Henley, Dowson and Bestel. They said that within the last two years they had shipped more than 5,000 free agricultural labourers to Mauritius, nearly 500 of them for their own estates; they could assure the editor that a happier and more contented labouring population was seldom to be met with in any part of the word. Their Mr. Henley was the first to direct the attention of the Mauritius planters to the resources of India for agricultural labourers. For Mauritius they cost £10 per head, which included six months' advance of wages, provisions, and water for the voyage, clothing, passage, insurance, &c. The expenses to the West Indies about £21. They would undertake to procure good and efficient labourers. Agreement entered into before the Superintendent of Police, Calcutta, voluntarily of their own free will to proceed to ———— to be employed in establishment or estate of Mr. ———— in any manner he may appoint for five years; absence to be made up, at Rs. 7 for sardars, Rs. 5 others, per month, with certain rations enumerated. Work throughout the day, with three hours for rest and food; Sundays to 9 A.M. Free passage back at end of term.

On the 8th of September following an Order in Council reported that no engagement was legal unless made in the colony. Leader in "*Gazette.*" No more cooly labour to be had for love or money. The order allowing it has been rescinded; for three years to come the Indian Government is authorised to absolutely prohibit the transportation of coolies to the West Indies.

A year afterwards there was a cry of ill-treatment of the coolies. Mr. Scoble, a Quaker delegate of the Anti-Slavery Society, raised the cry, and wrote a letter to the *Liverpool Chronicle*. When they deserted, said Scoble, they were brought back as prisoners and catted; they were commonly flogged and put in the stocks; two ran away into the bush and were supposed to have perished. A Commission had been appointed, and a Manager fined thirty shillings for assault; but this was not enough. Paid the fine and insulted Scoble, who took no notice of the "violent and dissipated man." Scoble then brought up another, and got him fined £5, or 20 days' imprisonment, for assaulting two coolies; another fined thirty guilders; another £20. His labour in bringing these to justice very great; said he was not vindictive, but wanted to expose the "horrid system of cruelty and injustice," &c. These details he expected would have the effect of preventing further importation of coolies. *Gazette* said, 3rd September 1839, speaking of long engagements, that the welkin would ring over the length and breadth of Great Britain with fresh cries of slavery, and John Scoble would send it bellowing from Dan to Beersheba that the slave trade is revived in a more appalling form.

In the House of Commons, 24th July previous, Sir J. Graham asked if the statements of the newspapers as to the mortality of the coolies in Demerara were true. Mr. Labouchere said at Bellevue, through improper conduct of the medical attendant, extensive sickness had taken place, the medical man had been dismissed, general condition not one of disease and mortality; must exercise vigilance.

Colonial Gazette, slavery under another name. In Demerara poor wretches worried to death by hundreds. This was highly exaggerated, the fact being that the managers left the coolies to their sardars, who ill-treated them and kept them at work in a manner entirely unsuited to their capabilities when newly arrived in the colony. Having been without new slaves for so long, they had forgotten that seasoning or acclimatization was necessary for the first year. One of the plantations where the charges of cruelty were trumped up by Scoble and the Society of Friends belonged to the firm of Gladstone, and the manager explained that, not knowing their language, he had left the coolies to the sardar, who, on his part, explained that the correction he had given was the same as customary in India.

Cooly immigration was stopped, and this led to a great deal of trouble. The combined court stopped the supplies, and public opinion became very much exercised in the matter. As the coolies could not be held to their engagements, they wandered about as beggars; there is even a picture of a party of them in the *Illustrated London News* somewhere in the forties. A sympathiser with the Anti-Slavery Society wrote to the *Reporter* in 1844—"I deliberately believe that if the cooly immigration scheme is to go on, it would have been better that the fetters of the slave had never been knocked off." Most of the first immigrants went back to India, so that when immigration was reopened in 1845, it was a new thing, and no old coolies acquainted with the country were at hand to help them over their first difficulties as now. On the 15th of August 1846 the *Gazette* said that within the last 12 months several thousand coolies had arrived, and in the next probably as many more—appear to be deficient in energy and independence of character. We should not, however, be too hasty in judging—strange land, and imperfect knowledge of their language; they want "matties" to be connecting links; mortality very small; a few beggars; hope they will settle down.

The above are scribbled down hastily from my "notes," and I hope you will find them what you require; if not, there are plenty more.

*

4TH AUGUST 1891.

Left Georgetown in the steamer *Guiana* for Berbice, and arrived off New Amsterdam at 3 P.M., where I was met by Mr. Griffin, the Immigration Sub-Agent for the county of Berbice. I had hoped that he would have made arrangements for a conveyance to take me to the Port Mourant estates, but he had not been able to do this. I drove to the Colony House, where I was to sleep; and Colonel McInnis, late of the 9th Lancers, and an old comrade in the Afghan war, Inspector-General of Police, whom I found staying there, kindly made arrangements for a cart for baggage and for a police boat to cross the Corentyne river to Surinam. I then visited the lunatic asylum, and was kindly shown over the institution by Dr. Snell, the Medical Superintendent. This is the only lunatic asylum in British Guiana, and contains at present about 600 patients, of whom 353 are East Indians. The asylum buildings are those formerly occupied by the garrison, which consisted of two British regiments. They cover a great deal of ground, and are constructed to obtain the maximum amount of light and air, and must have been very suitable for the purpose for which they were made.

Everything seems to be managed with great discipline, order, and regularity, and the old military spirit dominates the arrangements. The surrounding grounds are handsomely laid with flowers and ornamental shrubs. The medical officer's quarters are conveniently situated in the middle of the grounds. The comfort, safety, health, amusement and occupation of the lunatics receive great attention. I visited the worksheds, living rooms, dormitories, male and female infirmary, criminal cells, reading and amusement rooms, the dining and dancing halls, the printing press, and the ample and well-furnished kitchen, formerly the regimental canteen; also the latrines and other out-offices. All the grounds are kept in order by the coolies, whose especial province is to be employed on work of this kind in all public institutions in these colonies. The dormitories are clean, airy halls, with wooden beds amply provided with comfortable bedding, tables for eating and reading, easy chairs, pictures on the walls. The patients are dressed in suitable and clean clothes of an uniform pattern, and the attendants prompt, alert, and quiet in the maintenance of discipline. Criminal lunatics are employed during the day in picking oakum and carpentry, and at night are locked up in open work cells, which contain a comfortable bed and dry-earth commode. As regards East Indian lunatics, there is a great similarity in their behaviour and appearance in all lunatic asylums, whether in their mother-country or after long sojourn in the far west, and I was reminded of the visits I used to make when Superintendent of lunatic asylums at the Presidency of Bengal. The same noises, the same grimaces and gestures, ready and vacant laugh and proneness to anger. The printing 'press is worked by an insane formerly employed in the Bengal Secretariat Press. Among Europeans I noticed an old 94th man, who had served in the Crimea and Mutiny, and had come to the West Indies in 1871 in charge of the water-condensing engine of an emigrant vessel. A service is held weekly in the dining hall, at which about half the patients attend. Fortnightly dances are given, in which many East Indians join. On the asylum farm the usual ground provisions are grown, besides garden vegetables. There is also a cattle farm, piggery, and poultry yard. The occupations of the lunatics are wood-cutting, carpentry, painting benches, cots, coffins, tables, tailoring, shoemaking, baking and cooking, printing. All the forms used in the asylum are printed here—also the Asylum Journal and outside work; laundry, which employs a number of patients, sewing or making clothing for the asylum, hospital, and convict settlement. Cocoanut oil and fibres are also prepared. Dr. Snell promised me some figures relative to the number of insane coolies, and the effect of ganja and spirits in inducing insanity.

15TH AUGUST.

Up at daybreak and arranged to start for lot 63, an estate on the Corentyne river, by mail coach with Mr. Griffin. Left by coach at 8 A.M., with Messrs. Griffin and Weidner. After leaving the town we passed through some cooly villages of huts thatched with rushes and rice-straw. These they obtain from their own lands. In many of these people have cows and supply the town with milk, and others are fishermen and send fish to town, as the tide suits for their boats to travel. Two of them have seine nets over 1,000 yards long. These they stake out on the mud flats at high water, and when the tide falls, they slide over the mud on boards they call catamarans, and knock the fish on the head with their cutlasses (sugarcane-cutting knives about two feet long) and put them into baskets. About 1½ miles from town we passed an abandoned estate called Prospect, the whole of which is cultivated in rice by coolies who have settled there. I called one old man and asked him as to the conditions on which he occupied the land. He said he was the owner of 600 square yards of land, which he had bought for $150, and he had built a house on his property. He informed me most of the coolies rented ground at $1 a month for 600 yards. When not occupied on their own lands they worked on the neighbouring estates, but they are not obliged to do so if their own crops demand their attention. The object of planters in letting and selling land to coolies in this way is to ensure a supply of labour within easy reach of the sugar estates without going to the expense and trouble of maintaining indentured immigrants. The rice looked very well, and some of it was being cut, and other fields were newly planted or half grown. This is the result of the absence of well-marked seasonal changes, which allow successive crops to be grown and harvested all

through the year. For many miles along this coast there is land admirably suited for rice cultivation, but it is at present watered pasture, on which thousands of cattle, sheep, and goats, many of them the property of coolies, are grazed. Fifteen miles from New Amsterdam we came upon the estate of Port Mourant, and I stopped the coach a few minutes to enquire from Mr. Murray, the Manager, as to his system of monthly contracts with free coolies under the Masters' and Servants' Ordinance, and I think it is well calculated to be a beneficial arrangement for both parties. He gives numbers of free coolies house room, hospital accommodation, medical attendance and medicine, and ground free of rent for planting rice or other grain, on condition that the occupants work every day on his sugar estate at the wages paid to other immigrants. If their rice cultivation requires their attention, he gives them a pass and leave of absence for a week or fortnight, as they wish. The coolies have 240 acres of rice on these terms. In connection with this Mr. Griffin, the Immigration Sub-Agent, told me of an incident which happened last month. Fifteen or sixteen colony-born cooly youths (Creoles) asked for a three days pass to plant rice on their own lands. Instead of doing this they went to cricket matches for three days, and then were absent for three more days on their own ground. Mr. Murray summoned them, and they were fined $ 3 or seven days in jail, which latter alternative they all preferred. These were some of his best shovelmen, born on the estate, and in receipt of high wages, and all took money with them to pay their fines, but when they heard their stay in jail was to be so short, they all decided to go to jail. I gathered that the life in these jails is not unpleasant, but penal labour is more rigidly exacted than it used to be: formerly the only work was on the public roads, weeding or burning earth for metal, which was really no punishment at all, as they could see their friends and get tobacco, money, and other luxuries. Captain Baker, the Inspector-General of Prisons, has recently introduced stone-breaking as an extramural labour, and the prisoners no longer go out to weed and mend the roads. This change is not at all appreciated by the prisoners. Many of the sons of East Indians born in the colony play cricket regularly. On Saturday afternoon on most estates a game can be seen going on, the players being partly Creole cooly boys and partly "black," and the game is played with great spirit. Many managers encourage them to play, and some even get up rival matches with neighbouring estates. I am sorry to say this is not the only Saturday amusement. At any time on Saturday, a number of coolies will be found seated round a table in the verandah of a Portuguese or Chinaman's rum shop. Some, especially Madrassis, drink also on Sundays and Mondays; but drinking to excess, which is common among Madrassis, cannot be said to be a general habit among Bengal coolies, though it exists to some extent. It was to me a novel experience, and one giving food for reflection, to see coolies from the north-west, who had never tasted liquor in their own country, boozing in the verandah of a rum shop, and resisting with angry vehemence the entreaties of their children to come home. No doubt both they and their mothers know from painful experience what to expect when they do eventually make their appearance in the domestic circle. For 15 miles beyond Port Mourant the land is poor and sandy, and was formerly cultivated in cotton, but prices after the American war fell so rapidly that this crop is no longer profitable, and the land fell out of cultivation, the sea defences were no longer kept up, and the sea at spring tides floods the land with salt water, which killed the good grass and rendered these lands useless for grazing or tilling. A great part, however, of the coast between New Amsterdam and the Corentyne river is protected from sea encroachment by the natural elevation of the land, and by a belt of courida and mangrove bushes which grows on the shore and retain sand and soil in the interstices of their roots, besides offering a considerable barrier to the force of the waves, and it is the low land behind this belt which is so suitable for rice growing and for the occupation and settlement of coolies, on account of the natural qualities of the land and expensive sea defences and artificial drainage being unnecessary. The coolies in the West Indies are as helpless as their forefathers in India for combined action for the public good, and neither they nor the lazy and improvident negros can be got to make or even to renew the banks and drains without which their land is ruined. Leaving this sea-washed and partially spoilt land behind us we now entered a more fertile and cultivated district, and the country for the last nine miles before reaching estate lot 63 is thickly populated. I had better here explain how the names of estates were acquired. Under the old Dutch administration all the coast was measured out into numbered lots. Each of these lots had a façade on the coast of 50 rods or 600 feet, with a depth inland of 750 rods. As these lots were enclosed (empoldered) and taken up for sugar, these lots received especial names from their owners. Some of these, which were not bought as sugar estates, still retain their original numbers, by which they are known. On lots 57 and 58, or Dead Tree farm, and from thence up to lot 63, there are settlements of free or unindentured immigrants, who own or occupy land and grow rice, Indian-corn, cassava, cocoanuts, and plantains. The latter is not the succulent fruit known by that name in India, but is much coarser, more woody and bigger, and forms, when cooked as a vegetable, an important and nutritive article of diet in common use among all classes. Owing to the dearness of labour, it is very rare to see a well cultivated kitchen garden in the West Indies, and those who do go to this unusual expense employ a Chinaman for a few weeks to prepare the ground and plant the vegetables, in which work John is an adept. Vegetables, except the coarser sorts, are therefore a great luxury in these colonies.

Some of the estates on this coast were escheated by Government for road dues, and are now being sold out in lots to immigrants who are rapidly clearing and planting the land. The number of cattle grazing on every side is a remarkable feature in this part of the country, and many of them are owned by coolies. As illustrating the value here of good milking cows,

I learn that the Manager of Skeldon, an estate on the river Corentyne, in this neighbourhood, recently sold a milking cow to a cooly for $ 75. Cattle are much cheaper in Berbice county than nearer Georgetown. The price here of a steer in good condition is $ 40, but that of the ordinary run of unfated cattle is from $ 20 to $ 25. At the 39th mile of our journey by coach we came to our destination at lot 63, where the Government have built a police-station and rest-house. We are now on the banks of the Corentyne river, which separates British Guiana from Dutch Guiana or Surinam. Mr. Weidner, the British Vice-Consul at Nicherie, an important settlement on the Dutch side of the river, found here two Dutch Government boats waiting for him, and bade as adieu.

SUNDAY, 16TH AUGUST.

Left No. 63 at 8 A.M. for Skeldon estate, distance eight miles, up the Corentyne river. The Manager, Mr. Wilson, had kindly sent a carriage and pair of mules. By the side of the road up to Eliza and Mary estate, the whole of the lots 63 to 75½ are taken up by coolies, who have chosen and bought this land for themselves, and have been settled there for 25 years. This settlement has a frontage to the road of about seven miles, and the land owned and cultivated by coolies is perhaps over 4,000 acres. The advantages of the place as a settlement are:—

1*st*. It has been chosen by the coolies themselves, who always settle more readily and permanently when allowed their own choice of land, even if they have to pay highly for it, than if land is chosen and given to them gratis. There are many examples of this, both in this colony and throughout the West Indies, and is the great cause of the failure of the settlements promoted by Government, where coolies have been given land as bounty in exchange for their right to return passage, or to induce them to remain in the colony. Such settlements never thrive, and are eventually abandoned; whereas those bought by the coolies themselves are most striking examples of progress and prosperity.

2*nd*. No artificial drainage or sea defences are necessary on this part of the river.

3*rd*. The soil is very rich and suitable for rice and Indian-corn cultivation. As a rule, a cooly and his family buy and settle on a slip of land 3 rods =36 feet broad and 750 feet long, or what is called a "bed" on a sugar estate. Sometimes less, sometimes more, than a bed is taken up. All this land has been surveyed and measured into beds by the Crown Surveyors, and the land has been sold to the coolies by the Government. Since they acquired the land in this fashion years ago, the cooly proprietors have sold and resold the lots among themselves, and they vary much in value according to the care bestowed and the house property on them. I cannot at this moment find out what was the price originally paid for the land. All the coolies' houses are built along the front of these lots, facing the road, and I had a good opportunity, to-day being Sunday, of seeing them in their own houses. Their land lies at the back, and is planted in rice, corn, plantains and cassava. The front land is planted with cocoa-nut trees, and a plot is reserved round the house for mango, guava and other fruit trees, which also afford shade for their cattle, fowls, donkeys, goats, &c., of which they have a great number. Many of the houses have a cattle shed or pen near the house, in which calves and young cattle are kept. In front of many of the houses I saw rice drying, and in some they were pounding rice with "dhenkies." One cannot help being struck by the great happiness and contentment of the women and children in their self-chosen homes. The children are fat, sturdy, and well-groomed, and the mothers well-dressed and smiling. In one place a vigorous game of cricket was going on among cooly boys. Nearly every house had a donkey cart, in which the owners either go themselves or carry fruit, vegetables, grain, &c., to market held at estate Eliza and Mary, or even as far as that at New Amsterdam. It is difficult to recognize in these happy, contented, prosperous and worldly-wise people, living comfortably and independently on their own property, and rapidly acquiring wealth and importance of position as thriving settlers, the ignorant, penniless, bigoted, and intensely stupid coolies who left Calcutta only a few years previously. They owe their prosperity to the good management and careful tuition they receive on the estates as indentured immigrants, which inculcate habits of thrift, industry, regular work and self-reliance, to the wise law and careful administration which encourage them to settle and rise from the position of mere labourers to that of proprietors and important contributors to the wealth and development of the colony.

SUNDAY, 16TH AUGUST.

Skeldon Estate.

Mr. McConnell, *Proprietor.*
John Wilson, Esq., *Manager.*

Acreage under cultivation	...	...	... 975
Empoldered land, acres	...	...	... 1,261
Tons of sugar last year	...	...	... 1,261

	Males.	Females.
Indentured immigrants ...	... 209	71
Free ditto ...	... 305	120
Madrassis ...	... None.	
Children ...	... 111	81
	625	272
Non-resident coolies working on estate	...	... 175

School.—A school building and education are provided at the expense of the estate. Average attendance 30 out of 192. Only small children, who cannot work and who get into mischief if left by themselves at home, go to school. This is a fair example of the small return the estate gets for going to the often great expense and trouble of starting a school. It must, however, be said that managers are not particularly anxious to enforce attendance on those who are able to work and add to the family wages; and above all on an estate which is largely dependent on free labour, it is necessary that the manager should do nothing which would be unpopular with his workmen, as enforced attendances at school of the older boys and girls certainly would be. It is different as regards the children of indentured labourers.

Pasturage and cattle of coolies.—There are 352 head of cattle and 50 goats belonging to coolies on the estate. The extent of pasturage is small, and nothing is charged for it. The coolies find their own stock-minders.

Treatment of newly-arrived coolies.—These get rations free of charge for a week or a fortnight, and are also given light work at a liberal rate of wages. They also get free cutlass and hoe or shovel, saucepan and cooking pot, padlock and sufficient firewood. Considering that they are not entitled to any of these things without payment, it shows that the estate is controlled in a liberal-minded spirit, and the coolies need fear no harsh exactions or unfair treatment.

Pay-lists.—I see opposite each name the earnings per week in each gang. This commends itself to me as an excellent plan for ready reference. In the shovel gang the average earning per week of free cooly is $ 1·17 and of indentured cooly $ 1·28. The greater earnings of indentured coolies is due to the greater number of holidays taken by free coolies. In other weeks in the same month, the free coolies earned a few cents (12 cents) more than the indentured immigrants. The highest earning of an indentured immigrant that I notice in the month of July is by one man $ 3 in one week and $ 2·60 in the next week. This is for five days in the week, as only half day is worked on Monday and Saturday. The highest earning by a free man is that of Peter, a Madrasi, who made $ 2·40 one week, and $ 3 the next week. Another Madrasi, Soliman, earned the same. The next man, Sutanul, earned during the month—

		$
1st	week	1·64
2nd	do.	2·40
3rd	do.	2·80
4th	do.	2·16

He worked 20 days in the month and earned 45 cents, nearly 2 shillings a day. This is pretty well for a common cooly. In addition he has two cows and some provision grounds to look after.

On this estate the amount of money agreed upon as payment for the task to be performed is entered in the pay-list when the work is taken up. One or more entries of money to be earned are made in a week. The pay list is therefore not a record of money actually earned, but of money to be earned if the work be satisfactorily completed. I am sure it would be better to pay for whatever work had been done previous to the weekly pay day, and square the accounts weekly, and would be in accordance with principle of immigration law that no payment of wages for work done should be carried forward beyond the next pay day.

Weeding gang.—Average earnings for July, four weeks:—

·79
·82
·82
·91
—
334
—

or 16⅔ cents for each day's work. Weeding is considered light work, and is not so well paid a digging, banking, &c., and this gang includes women, boys and girls, and weakly men not fit or the shovel gang.

Ration.—A free ration of quassia and rum is served out morning and evening to all coolies, both free and indentured, as a prophylactic against malaria. On the recommendation of the medical officer the dram consists of one ounce of rum mixed with an infusion of quassia. I asked some of the coolies, and they say that even the Brahmins and the Sudras of the Kabir Punth sect drink rum, and that there is no caste here, Chamars and Brahmins being equal. Mussulmans do not eat pork, but all others do. This is, I think, somewhat of an exaggeration.

Vaccination.—All the children were vaccinated last year.

Hospital—

	Male.	Female.
In-door patients	18	6
Out-door	11	7
	29	13

Principally malarious fever and bronchitis. The hospital, as usual, clean and well appointed, and the patients comfortable.

Cooly houses were of all patterns, but those of the new and approved patterns sufficient for the indentured immigrants. All the houses were in good repair and the surroundings clean and well drained.

SUNDAY, 16TH AUGUST.

Eliza and Mary Estate.

E. T. Henry, Esq., Proprietor.

Acreage under cultivation	960
Tons of sugar manufactured last year ...	1,285
Year before	1,740

	Male.	Female.
Indentured coolies	180	68
Free do.	138	64
Madrasi	1	1
Children	67	46

School.—About 24 children go to the church school, for whom the estate pays 6*d.* a head.

Pasturage for coolies' cattle.—There are 99 head of cattle on the estate belonging to coolies, who pay 4*d.* a head per month to cover pasturage and stock-minders' fees. There are about 200 acres of pasture ground on the estate, which the coolies can use, as well as lot 62, which has been bought by the estate as pasture ground. The coolies have no farms, rice or "provision grounds" or gardens.

In May and September there is a scarcity of labour on this estate, and the free coolies in the neighbouring settlement cannot be induced to come and work.

To show how the word "blacks" is universally employed without prejudice as a designation for Africans, I see one of the headings in the pay-list is "Resident Labour—Blacks."

Rations.—The Portuguese shopkeeper distributes the rations. Each cooly gets a token, and a headman or "driver" goes with them to the shop. The shopkeeper charges 11¼ cents a ration. In addition, a rum and quassia ration is given every morning, this being a malarious place. On first arrival, after allotment, implements, cooking pots, &c., are given free, also free rations for the first and last week of the period of rationing. This is what is done on liberally managed estates. The first week's rations and necessary implements, cooking pots, &c., are not charged, because the coolies having earned no wages cannot be expected to have money to pay for rations, and rations during the last week of the period of rationing are not charged for, in order to allow the cooly to have a little money in hand to set up house for himself.

Pay-lists.—Average earning during the last week in July, allowing five days work in the week, and excluding absentees of men in the shovel gang, which always includes many of the best workmen on the estate:—

	$
Free coolies average	1·35
Indentured	1·33

The money earned is entered once, twice, or three times a week, and generally when the task is partly done, and not when the task is given out or completed. This system has disadvantages which I have elsewhere remarked upon, and is not what is intended by the ordinance. The highest earning of an indentured immigrant in the shovel gang for 25 working days is $ 12, or at the rate of 48 per cent., or 2 shillings a day. This may well be contrasted with the pay the same man would get in India, without the additional advantages of housing and medical attendance if sick. The same workman in India would consider himself lucky if he was able to earn 4 annas, less than 6*d.*, a day for 25 days in a month, and find himself in everything.

Among the free coolies, the highest wages earned were by a watchman who got 5 bitts = 1*s.* 8*d.* a day, every day in the week including Sundays. This work is very light, and consists in keeping a general look out on the safety of estate property, and is by no means an unpleasant berth.

Task gangs of free coolies are always paid by the estate, and no money goes through the driver, as in former years making over the money to the head of the gang led to much discontent and peculation.

The system in force here is to make over a field or more than one field to a driver or head man at a fixed rate per "bed." The driver selects the men and controls their work, being paid at the rate of 2 guilders = 3 shillings a day; but the work of each man is measured and paid for by the estate overseer, and the driver has nothing to do with the handling of the money, and in this way many disputes are avoided.

The Manager explains that there is no such thing as fining or stopping pay for minor offences of coolies on this estate.

Hospital.

25 In-patients.
4 Out-door patients.

Of these 16 indentured, 3 unindentured, and 4 children. Nearly all intermittent fever or ague. No serious cases.

Christmas present.

Generally a present is given to the coolies, but none could be afforded last year, as the crop was so small. No *tajia* has been made on this estate for many years, and the Muharram is only observed to a small extent.

The Manager approves of the *livret* system, or of something approaching it, which would show progressively the work done and wages earned throughout his period of indenture. He quotes the case of a cooly, one named Bhugaloo, who under this system, now abandoned, earned $ 346, and obtained his certificate of exemption from future labour, although he had only completed 2 years and 10 months of his five years indenture. No doubt a record of this sort, carefully and conscientiously kept by the Manager in the interests of the cooly, is a valuable incentive to regular work and good conduct; but the disadvantages of the "*livret*" system, the worst examples of which I have seen in French Colonies, more than counterbalance any good that can be obtained from it. Having completed my visit to these estates, I returned to No. 63 in the evening and slept there.

17TH AUGUST.

Occupied in the morning in interviewing coolies. They are anxious to impress me with the necessity of Government making a trench or canal to drain their estates from the bush water, which in heavy rains spoils their pasture lands and kills their cows. The subject is already being considered by the Central Agricultural Board. I told them if they were anxious to impress Government with the urgency of their demand, they should offer to supply a portion of the labour for the cutting of the canal, which would be entirely for their own benefit. This suggestion did not seem to be received with much fervour, which is only what I have remarked elsewhere, that neither coolies nor blacks can combine and organize any project for the good of the community. These people have no intention of returning to India, which has no attractions to compensate them for the loss of their present comfort, independence and increasing wealth. And they say, they would suffer great loss in the sale of their property; they also urge that they have children, and what could they do with children in India, which is quite true, for the prospects in India for children and parents are miserable compared with those in this colony.

I am now at the frontier of British Guiana, whose sugar estates, settlements, and towns with their public buildings I have traversed and inspected from Hampton Court on the Arouabice coast (or Arabian coast, as it is sometimes erroneously called, Aroua meaning a jaguar) to Skeldon on the Corentyne river to the far east, and I am pleased to be able to record my belief that in British Guiana the cooly has found a home where he is infinitely more happy and prosperous than he could ever expect to be in his own country. The history of his residence in this colony is one of continuous education and development of the best qualities which go to make him hardy, self-reliant, and desirous of taking advantage of the numerous opportunities afforded him for placing himself and his family in a position of comfortable independence. All this he owes to the far-sighted generosity of his masters, the planters, who at great expense have brought him to the colony and sedulously cared for him—while he was yet prone to all the mistakes which might be expected from raw and bigotted ignorance.

The police patrol boat hove in sight, and I was soon crossing the broad waters of the Corentyne and making for Nickerie in Dutch Guiana.

5TH SEPTEMBER.

I arrived off the coast of British Guiana in the steamer *S. Domingo*, having visited Surinam and Cayenne.

After all my wanderings in wild places and jungles, the sight of the tall chimneys and the stately factories dotted along the coast, and all the evidences of order and civilization, are very refreshing. Like the highwayman who found himself in Edinbro' gaol, I can say, "Thank God I am in biggit land once more." Landing, I drove to Government House, where I received a hearty welcome from Sir Charles and Lady Bruce, and found myself comfortably installed in my former quarters. The next steamer for Martinique I see was to leave on the 10th.

SUNDAY, 6TH SEPTEMBER.

I spent the morning with Sir Charles Bruce, and discussed a number of subjects connected with emigration. Sir Charles is preparing a note for me on the subject of the abolition of return passages.

MONDAY, 7TH.

Employed in the morning in going over the statistics furnished by the Immigration Department, prepared during my absence. Great care has been taken in their compilation, and the varied information afforded shows how well in hand is official work. The Immigration Agent-General informs me that it is impossible to obtain any reliable statistics as to the number of cooly children vaccinated, either from the Medical Department or from the Registrar-General's office, notwithstanding that Medical Officers submit bills for vaccinations performed at Re. 1 per head for successful operations. He also spoke of the appointment of a Bengali Babu as a Superintendent of Interpreters, who is to get £250 a year, which appears to me to be very unnecessary, and I cannot see what good end it can possibly serve. The appointment originated in a complaint by Lord Gormanston that the interpreters in the

courts were untrustworthy. This I can well understand; but how the appointment of another man, to be called the Superintendent of Interpreters, is to remedy this, I fail to see. The present man selected is, I should think by the name, a Bengali Brahmin.

WEDNESDAY, 9TH SEPTEMBER.

Wrote to Monsieur Grodel, Governor of Cayenne, thanking him for the hospitality and kindness he had shown me, and the opportunities afforded during my stay for seeing the Indian immigrant population. Also to Jonkheer van Asch van Wyck, Governor of Surinam, to the same effect, and replying to his letter regarding sale of land to coolies and punishment of "bent fetters." Also to Consul Wyndham, thanking him for his assistance both at Cayenne and Paramaribo. Also to Mr. Morris, Assistant Consul at Paramaribo, thanking him for assistance and information afforded. Also to India Office, reporting my visit to Surinam and Cayenne.

THURSDAY, 10TH SEPTEMBER.

Taking leave of my gracious hosts, from whom I had always received more than kindness and hospitality could suggest, and regretfully bidding adieu to the Government House party, and my friend Mr. De Rune Barclay, Private Secretary, I left in the S. S. *Esk* for Barbados *en route* for Martinique and Guadeloupe.

APPENDIX A.

BRITISH GUIANA.

Return showing —

1. Numbers of sexes.
2. Ages.
3. Conjugal condition.
4. Occupations of East Indian immigrants in each of the various districts of the Colony of British Guiana as compiled from the Census, 1891, returns.

	British Guiana Districts.	Totals.			Conjugal condition.					
					Unmarried.		Married.		Widowed.	
		Males.	Females.	Persons.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.
County of Demerara.	Mahaica and Mahaicony	2,594	1,557	4,151	1,760	840	781	656	53	61
	East Coast	13,652	8,980	22,632	10,018	5,695	3,186	2,975	448	310
	Georgetown and environs ...	2,122	1,281	3,403	1,195	641	893	609	34	31
	Public institutions	496	77	573	366	60	118	17	12	...
	East Bank	5,082	3,432	8,514	2,993	2,581	1,962	737	127	114
	West do.	3,963	2,473	6,436	2,961	1,868	921	532	81	73
	Upper River	309	97	406	227	60	79	31	3	6
	West Coast	9,980	6,539	16,519	7,674	4,772	2,200	1,615	106	152
	Totals—Demerara ...	38,198	24,436	62,634	27,194	16,517	10,140	7,172	864	747
County of Essequibo.	River and islands	472	206	678	358	104	107	97	7	5
	Leguan Island	2,410	1,500	3,910	1,921	1,037	457	426	32	37
	Wakenaam do.	2,411	1,490	3,901	2,086	1,205	289	255	36	30
	Tiger do.	391	234	625	338	186	51	45	2	3
	North Coast	7,896	4,976	12,872	5,766	3,487	1,960	1,322	170	167
	Pomeroon River	178	31	209	143	20	35	11	...	...
	N. W. District	112	17	129	65	11	47	4	...	2
	Public institutions	172	8	180	152	8	20	...	...	...
	Totals—Essequibo ...	14,042	8,462	22,504	10,829	6,058	2,966	2,160	247	244
County of Berbice.	Corentyn Coast and River ...	4,535	2,989	7,524	3,180	1,761	1,262	1,104	93	124
	East Coast	180	123	303	103	50	68	68	9	5
	Canje Creek	3,037	2,015	5,052	2,155	1,148	833	792	49	75
	New Amsterdam	458	294	752	349	192	96	80	13	22
	Public institutions	384	126	510	298	92	77	33	9	1
	East Bank	2,124	1,157	3,281	1,675	765	432	359	17	33
	West do.	718	446	1,164	512	258	190	167	16	21
	Upper River	24	12	36	19	7	5	5	...	...
	West Coast	1,004	701	1,705	607	302	355	352	42	47
	Totals—Berbice ...	12,464	7,863	20,327	8,898	4,575	3,318	2,960	248	328
		Males.	Females.	Persons.	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Totals whole Colony ...	64,704	40,761	105,465	...	...	...	...	...	...

AGES.											
Under one year.		Over 1 and under 2.		2 to 3.		3 to 4.		4 to 5.		Total under 5.	
Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.
29	32	43	38	45	47	39	46	54	42	210	205
245	247	225	281	279	316	293	324	283	286	1,326	1,454
25	26	19	19	29	19	30	28	25	32	128	124
5	1	1	1	2	...	4	1	2	2	14	5
51	60	74	108	80	78	81	75	88	92	374	413
31	30	50	49	60	64	54	68	56	58	251	269
1	...	3	5	1	...	...	1	...	...	5	6
195	173	188	195	198	212	238	211	227	204	1,046	995
582	569	604	696	694	736	739	754	735	716	3,354	3,471
4	5	2	2	...	3	2	2	1	2	9	14
32	34	42	45	40	34	34	37	41	39	198	189
39	32	42	49	47	51	47	46	71	35	246	213
4	5	6	5	7	10	5	5	10	3	32	28
102	93	114	123	128	123	143	136	131	141	618	616
...	...	1	...	1	3	...	2	...	...	2	5
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
181	169	207	224	232	224	231	223	254	220	1,105	1,065
64	63	90	85	120	110	90	102	130	117	494	477
1	3	1	1	5	1	3	4	5	4	15	13
33	33	50	48	51	42	66	57	58	60	252	240
8	7	6	7	5	6	7	7	11	7	37	34
...	...	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1	1
21	22	22	20	21	17	25	25	25	29	114	113
12	12	16	17	6	7	5	7	10	7	49	50
...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	2
11	9	21	27	20	23	23	23	29	26	104	108
150	149	207	206	228	206	213	227	268	250	1,066	1,038
913	...	1,018	...	1,154	...	1,183	...	1,257	...	5,525	...
...	887	...	1,126	...	1,166	...	1,209	...	1,186	...	5,374
1,800		2,144		2,320		2,392		2,443		11,099	

AGES—*continued.*

5 to 10.		10 to 15.		15 to 20.		Total under 20.		20 to 25.	
Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.
232	184	176	125	147	132	765	646	267	167
1,277	1,238	1,020	753	714	605	4,337	4,050	1,420	1,016
125	167	105	120	114	119	472	530	138	163
3	6	13	3	7	2	37	16	47	10
399	418	427	321	274	248	1,474	1,400	592	343
245	294	250	188	175	154	921	905	540	300
8	13	12	9	10	8	35	36	16	11
967	816	691	530	488	480	3,192	2,821	964	667
3,256	3,136	2,694	2,049	1,929	1,748	11,233	10,404	3,984	2,677
16	13	24	18	21	20	70	65	41	15
166	160	142	125	120	115	626	589	355	195
204	167	160	114	117	107	727	601	322	186
35	72	29	13	30	34	126	147	52	17
626	686	511	393	398	331	2,153	2,026	797	537
11	1	8	1	5	...	26	7	27	5
3	...	1	3	5	1	9	4	8	1
...	...	9	1	6	1	15	2	16	1
1,061	1,099	884	668	702	609	3,752	3,441	1,618	957
468	422	359	295	250	226	1,571	1,420	460	271
17	14	14	12	10	11	56	50	20	8
252	251	189	157	167	167	860	815	311	229
25	45	30	30	27	17	119	126	22	35
2	3	1	1	1	...	5	5	15	10
117	87	110	81	91	72	432	353	313	185
71	63	53	36	41	25	214	174	91	49
2	2	3	...	...	1	5	5	1	...
98	99	83	75	60	55	340	337	98	83
1,047	986	842	687	647	574	3,602	3,285	1,331	870
5,364	...	4,420	...	3,278	...	18,587	...	6,933	...
...	5,221	...	3,404	...	2,931	...	17,130	...	4,504
10,585		7,824		6,209		35,771		11,437	

AGES—*continued.*

25 to 30.		30 to 35.		35 to 40.		40 to 45.		45 to 50.		Total under 50.	
Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.
337	224	301	145	265	118	220	103	172	62	2,327	1,465
1,789	826	1,564	972	1,418	737	1,286	563	691	307	12,505	8,471
210	118	292	193	305	118	291	91	161	48	1,869	1,191
77	6	119	9	86	12	49	5	24	4	439	62
658	407	661	370	505	284	465	231	280	149	4,635	3,184
640	369	522	290	490	243	390	150	197	72	3,696	2,329
51	12	56	13	50	6	47	1	37	4	272	83
1,300	802	1,340	727	992	523	957	417	449	224	9,194	6,181
5,068	2,764	4,855	2,649	4,101	2,041	3,705	1,561	1,991	870	34,937	22,906
70	19	52	17	47	20	66	21	37	16	383	173
367	215	344	161	224	109	207	100	121	48	2,244	1,417
326	170	299	186	243	102	202	98	107	44	2,226	1,387
46	25	39	20	41	6	35	6	20	6	359	227
1,143	569	1,122	600	963	420	764	355	424	197	7,366	4,704
35	14	43	3	...	...	22	2	11	...	164	31
19	...	27	8	21	2	14	...	4	2	102	17
34	...	35	1	21	...	26	2	9	...	156	6
2,040	1,012	1,961	996	1,560	659	1,336	584	733	313	13,000	7,969
533	311	501	258	488	261	331	170	271	137	4,205	2,828
9	11	16	7	13	9	22	13	9	10	145	108
422	244	422	206	335	173	317	148	163	75	2,830	1,890
53	16	59	32	59	24	73	25	31	16	416	274
48	23	85	28	95	16	51	24	30	8	329	114
442	208	324	162	251	82	156	69	88	34	2,006	1,093
115	56	103	65	81	37	64	37	21	13	689	431
1	3	9	1	2	...	2	1	2	...	22	10
151	61	79	61	88	48	94	42	54	40	904	673
1,774	933	1,598	820	1,412	650	1,160	529	669	333	12,546	7,420
8,882	...	8,414	...	7,073	...	6,201	...	3,393	...	59,483	...
...	4,709	...	4,465	...	3,350	...	2,674	...	1,516	...	38,348
13,591		12,879		10,423		8,875		4,909		97,831	

AGES—*continued.*

50 to 55.		55 to 60.		60 to 65.		65 to 70.		70 to 75.		75 to 80.	
Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.
134	44	52	9	45	23	13	4	13	3	3	1
526	244	191	89	256	94	68	23	60	24	10	3
116	39	49	18	54	15	14	4	10	3	1	2
20	7	12	1	11	3	4	1	5	3	3	...
202	115	114	60	86	45	19	16	13	6	4	2
117	68	72	36	32	23	16	4	10	4	4	1
13	4	8	3	8	5	1	...	3	1	1	...
372	183	129	56	174	73	31	15	24	9	10	2
1,500	704	627	272	666	281	166	67	138	53	36	11
36	8	17	14	18	5	4	2	6	3	5	1
79	40	40	16	31	11	3	8	2	2	3	...
96	52	35	13	36	28	11	2	4	5	...	...
18	3	10	4	3	...	1	...	...	...	...	...
246	125	92	45	102	52	36	14	22	6	8	2
6	...	4	...	4	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
2	...	1	...	5	...	1	...	1	...	...	...
10	1	2	...	1	1	1	...	...	...	...	...
493	229	201	92	200	97	57	26	35	16	16	3
155	86	61	29	57	25	31	15	14	6	6	2
17	6	9	3	5	2	4	1	...	2	...	...
102	63	39	25	35	22	20	6	6	2	2	3
13	5	11	5	10	4	3	1	1	2	1	...
25	5	13	2	9	3	6	...	1	2	1	...
57	32	22	7	15	7	9	3	6	7	1	...
15	7	5	1	3	5	3	1	1	1	...	...
1	2	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
43	14	27	10	23	...	3	3	2	...	1	1
428	214	188	82	157	68	79	30	31	22	12	6
2,421	...	1,016	...	1,023	...	302	...	204	...	64	...
...	1,147	...	446	...	446	...	123	...	91	...	20
3,568		1,462		1,469		425		295		84	

AGES—*concluded.*

80 to 85.		85 to 90.		90 to 95.		95 to 100.		100 and upwards.		Age not stated.		Totals all ages	
Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.
3	4	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4	4	2,594	1,557
17	11	3	4	2	3	2	1	...	1	12	12	13,652	8,980
1	1	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	1	8	5	2,122	1,281
1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	406	77
3	1	2	1	1	...	...	1	...	...	3	1	5,082	3,432
5	2	1	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	9	5	3,961	2,473
2	...	1	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	309	97
10	...	2	1	4	...	3	...	...	...	27	18	9,980	6,539
42	19	9	8	8	6	5	2	...	2	64	45	38,198	24,436
...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	472	206
1	3	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	5	3	2,410	1,500
1	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	2,411	1,490
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	391	234
8	7	4	2	3	4	...	1	1	...	8	14	7,896	4,976
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	178	31
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	112	17
2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	172	8
12	13	5	2	5	4	...	1	1	...	17	17	14,042	8,462
3	...	1	1	1	1	...	1	...	...	1	1	4,535	2,989
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	180	123
2	1	1	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	1	3,037	2,015
2	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	458	294
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	384	126
2	...	...	...	2	2	...	1	...	1	4	4	2,124	1,157
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	718	446
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	24	12
...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1,004	701
9	1	4	1	3	3	...	4	...	1	7	11	12,464	7,863
63	...	18	...	16	...	5	...	1	...	88	...	64,704	...
...	33	...	11	...	13	...	7	...	3	...	73	...	40,761
96		29		29		12		4		161		105,465	

	British Guiana Districts.	Class I.—Professional.							
		Priests.		Teachers.		Interpreters and messengers.		Police.	
		Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.
County of Demerara.	Mahaica and Mahaicony	1	...	...	...	1	...	4	...
	East Coast	16	...	...	...	5	...	4	...
	Georgetown and environs	11	...	...	...	17	...	31	...
	Public institutions	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	East Bank	6	...	...	...	...	...	2	...
	West do.	3	...	4	...	1	...	...	...
	Upper River	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	West Coast	7	...	...	...	2	...	2	...
	Totals—Demerara ...	44	...	4	...	26	...	43	...
County of Essequibo.	River and islands	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Leguan Island	2	...	...	...	2	...	1	...
	Wakenaam do.	3	...	...	...	1	...	...	...
	Tiger do.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	North Coast	6	...	3	...	3	...	5	...
	Pomeroon River	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	N. W. District	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Public institutions	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Totals—Essequibo ...	11	...	3	...	6	...	6	...
County of Berbice.	Corentyn Coast and River	3	...	2	...	3	...	4	...
	East Coast	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...
	Canje Creek	5	...	...	...	...	...	2	...
	New Amsterdam	...	...	...	...	1	...	8	...
	Public institutions	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...
	East Bank	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...
	West do.	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...
	Upper River	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	West Coast	2	...	...	...	1	...	...	...
	Totals—Berbice ...	12	...	2	...	7	...	17	...
		67	...	9	...	39	...	66	...
		...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Totals whole Colony ...	...		...		...		...	

Class II.—Domestic.						Class III.—Commercial.					
Domestics, Indoor.		Domestics, Outdoor.		Washers.		Merchant, Agent or dealer.		Employed on Railway.		Cab-owners.	
Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.
18	...	5	51	...	1	8	...	...	...	...	...
64	108	...	...	...	9	18	5	...	...	...	...
135	67	55	138	...	16	46	...	2	...	6	...
2	4	4	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
22	29	14	...	...	3	...	...	...	...	2	...
30	18	7	2	...	5	3	...	...	...	4	...
3	34	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
54	72	22	2	...	9	3	...	...	...	8	...
328	332	107	193	...	44	78	5	2	...	20	...
2	15	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
11	7	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...
17	12	3	...	...	5	...	...	...	...	...	...
1	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
90	105	20	7	...	8	7	...	...	...	1	...
...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
4	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
2	2	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
127	145	24	7	...	15	7	...	...	...	1	...
27	...	11	13	...	7	2	...	...	...	2	...
4	6	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
11	20	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
5	7	2	...	...	3	...	...	...	...	...	...
2	5	8	...	...	2	1	...	...	...	...	...
11	16	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
6	2	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
1	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
8	11	...	...	...	4	...	...	...	...	...	...
75	69	26	13	...	16	3	...	...	...	2	...
530	...	157	...	...	...	88	...	2	...	23	...
...	546	...	213	...	75	...	5	...	...	...	...
...		...		...		...		...		...	

British Guiana Districts.	Class IV.—Agricultural.											
	Agricultural labourers.		Attending machinery.		Attending stock, &c.		Overseers, &c.		Watchmen, &c.		General la-	
	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.		
County of Demerara.												
Mahaica and Mahaicony	1,872	1,060	3	...	10	...	6	...	21	...		
East Coast	10,337	6,001	5	...	97	4	47	5	67	...		
Georgetown and environs ...	512	355	3	...	73	5	10	...	38	...		
Public institutions	345	42	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	...		
East Bank	4,104	2,916	4	...	54	...	22	6	42	...	8	...
West do.	2,961	1,837	6	...	46	7	36	7	37	...	13	...
Upper River	166	23	1	...	3	...	...	...	6	...	...	...
West Coast	8,418	5,587	8	...	36	4	48	3	53	...	31	...
Totals—Demerara ...	28,715	17,821	30	...	319	20	176	21	267	...	451	11
County of Essequibo.												
River and islands	173	53	...	...	9	6	...	...	7	...	...	...
Leguan Island	1,949	1,235	6	...	22	...	7	...	16	...	11	...
Wakenaam do.	1,919	1,204	2	...	23	...	12	3	20	...	21	...
Tiger do.	318	168	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	...	...	...
North Coast	6,225	4,111	16	...	55	...	60	4	60	...	18	...
Pomeroon River	172	26	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
N. W. District	96	17	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Public institutions	68	6	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	91	...
Totals—Essequibo ...	10,920	6,280	24	...	114	6	79	7	106	...	141	...
County of Berbice												
Corentyn Coast and River	3,561	2,401	7	...	74	8	17	5	40	...	28	...
East Coast	113	84	...	...	8	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Canje Creek	2,538	1,651	...	...	31	2	6	2	14	...	8	...
New Amsterdam	207	162	...	...	7	...	1	...	3	...	34	...
Public institutions	243	71	...	...	3	...	...	...	1	...	2	...
East Bank	1,712	867	...	...	16	2	9	3	18	...	7	...
West do.	577	368	...	...	3	1	3	...	3	...	...	...
Upper River	19	8	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
West Coast	653	490	2	...	32	...	3	...	6	...	16	...
Totals—Berbice ...	9,623	6,105	9	...	175	13	39	10	85	...	95	...
	49,258	...	63	...	608	...	294	...	458	...	687	...
	...	30,746	...	...	...	39	...	38	...	...	...	11
Totals whole Colony ...	...		...		...		...		...		...	

		CLASS V.—INDUSTRIAL.									
Fishermen.		Bakers and cake-makers.		Barbers.		Chemists and druggists and midwives.		Charcoal burners.		Gold-seekers.	
Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.
1	...	...	...	1	...	...	1	...	...	1	...
22	...	6	8	11	...	1	6	...	...	...	...
60	...	42	16	38	...	5	4	...	...	...	...
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
8	...	3	8	9	...	2	3	2	...	...	...
7	...	4	4	14	...	1	...	9	...	...	...
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
...	...	7	8	17	...	2	4	...	...	...	...
98	...	62	44	90	...	11	18	11	...	1	...
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	17	...
12	...	1	3	6	...	1	...	...	...	...	...
5	...	3	6	4	...	...	2	...	...	...	...
15	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
...	...	15	8	21	...	3	2	...	...	...	...
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
32	...	19	17	31	...	4	4	...	...	17	...
18	...	8	14	12	...	2	2	...	...	...	...
1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
...	...	3	7	5	...	1	...	...	...	...	...
26	...	7	3	4	...	1	...	...	...	...	...
1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
...	...	2	4	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
...	...	...	...	2	...	2	...	...	...	...	...
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
13	...	2	4	9	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
59	...	23	32		...	6	3	...	...	...	...
189	...	104	...	153	...	21	...	11	...	18	...
...	...	...	93	...	...	...	25	...	...	...	...
...		...		...		...		...		...	

Goldsmiths.		Grass-sellers.		Hucksters.		Milk-sellers.		Mechanics.		Market Gardeners.	
Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.
6	...	5	*1*	2	*1*	...	...	9	*3*	...	...
13	...	56	*27*	16	*11*	24	*38*	47	*22*	...	...
24	...	79	*21*	60	*34*	16	*54*	65	*34*	...	...
...	...	...	...	...	*3*	...	...	4	...	...	...
4	...	33	*4*	12	*10*	7	*19*	14	*6*	...	...
3	...	24	*7*	13	*7*	4	*12*	14	*9*	...	...
...	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
14	...	47	*5*	13	...	4	*14*	28	*13*	...	...
64	...	246	*65*	119	*66*	55	*137*	181	*87*	...	...
...	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	3	*5*	...	...
3	..	19	*4*	6	*3*	4	*9*	9	*8*	...	...
2	...	14	*9*	8	...	7	*16*	2	*4*	...	...
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
10	...	45	*12*	28	...	7	*18*	15	*7*	...	...
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...
1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...
16	...	80	*25*	42	*3*	18	*43*	32	*24*	...	...
6	...	20	*3*	8	...	10	*36*	28	*16*	...	...
...	...	1	...	...	...	4	...	3	...	...	...
2	...	16	*4*	2	*4*	4	*43*	5	*4*	...	...
3	...	8	*3*	6	*1*	...	*3*	17	*14*	...	...
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	11	...	...	...
2	...	14	...	4	*3*	2	*4*	6	*4*	...	...
1	...	4	...	2	*1*	3	...	3	*2*	...	...
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
2	...	8	...	14	*2*	...	*7*	12	*22*	...	...
16	...	71	*10*	36	*11*	23	*93*	85	*62*	...	...
96	...	397	...	197	...	96	...	298	...	...	...
...	...	...	*100*	...	*80*	...	*273*	...	*173*	...	...
...		...		...		...		...		...	

CLASS VI.														
Shop-keepers.		Shopmen, clerks, &c.		Wood-cutters.		Peasant proprietors.		House proprietors.		Children and persons of no occupation.		Females engaged in domestic duties.	Scholars.	
Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Females.	Males.	Females.
12	...	4	1	...	...	13	1	...	...	352	235	32	210	159
28	...	12	...	...	...	29	2	...	...	1,266	1,435	119	1,406	1,180
23	1	22	2	...	...	8	...	12	...	199	240	94	219	200
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	114	24	...	18	4
9	...	12	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	372	213	25	310	190
4	1	7	...	...	...	8	3	...	...	214	325	17	296	219
1	...	...	...	26	...	46	4	...	...	27	13	11	19	11
19	...	9	2	...	...	34	2	...	...	831	544	43	259	220
96	2	65	5	26	...	138	12	12	...	3,575	3,029	341	2,737	2,183
3	...	1	...	18	...	184	3	...	...	35	23	90	18	11
9	...	4	...	...	...	4	...	...	...	192	114	13	113	102
13	...	7	...	2	...	7	...	...	...	220	193	8	91	98
1	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	31	30	2	35	32
25	3	15	...	...	...	104	11	...	...	723	532	39	301	109
...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	4	3
...	...	...	...	...	...	5	...	...	...	4	...	...	2	...
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	7	...
51	3	27	...	20	...	308	14	...	...	1,205	822	152	571	355
34	2	7	...	...	...	55	6	...	...	359	271	57	187	145
2	...	...	...	...	...	8	...	...	...	13	15	5	21	13
9	2	7	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	269	183	11	97	82
3	...	4	...	3	...	1	...	...	...	43	32	21	63	45
...	...	...	...	5	...	...	...	...	...	105	48	...	...	...
8	1	6	...	2	...	21	6	...	...	195	164	13	85	69
8	1	5	...	...	...	6	...	...	...	59	37	15	30	19
...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	2	1	1	...	...
4	...	1	...	2	...	1	...	...	...	104	67	13	106	81
68	6	30	...	12	...	95	12	...	...	1,149	818	136	589	454
215	...	123	...	58	...	541	...	12	...	5,929	...	...	3,897	...
...	11	...	5	...	...	...	38	...	...	...	4,669	629	...	2,992
...		...		...		...		...		...		...	...	

E. H. G. DALTON,
Registrar-General.

5th August 1891.

APPENDIX B.

No. 25, 1891.

BRITISH GUIANA.

[COURT OF POLICY.]

The Immigration Ordinance,

1891.

Calcutta:

PRINTED AT THE BENGAL SECRETARIAT PRESS,

1893.

British Guiana.

THE IMMIGRATION ORDINANCE, 1891.

A.D. 1891.

ARRANGEMENT OF SECTIONS.

Preliminary.

SECTION.

1. Short title.
2. Interpretation of terms.
3. Division of the Ordinance.
4. Forms.
   First Schedule.
5. Naming of places of emigration.

PART I.

THE IMMIGRATION DEPARTMENT.

The Immigration Agent-General.

6. Appointment and salary of Immigration Agent-General.
7. General duties of the Immigration Agent-General.
8. General powers of the Immigration Agent-General.

The Senior Immigration Agent.

9. Appointment and salary of Senior Immigration Agent.
10. General duties of the Senior Immigration Agent.

Immigration Agents, etc.

11. Appointment, duties, and salaries of Immigration Agents, etc.

Medical Officers.

12. Power to the Surgeon-General to visit plantation, etc.
13. Appointment and salary of Medical Inspector.
14. General duties of the Medical Inspector.
15. Duties of Government Medical Officers in immigration matters.
16. Requisition for special visit of Government Medical Officer.

Work of the Department.

17. Powers of supervision, etc., of the Immigration Agent-General.
18. Visiting of plantations by Immigration Agents.
19. Power to summon witness on inquiry.

First schedule : Form No. 1.

20. Administration of oath on inquiry.

First Schedule : Form No. 2:

Form No. 3.

21. Taking of evidence on inquiry.
22. Power to require production of labour books.
23. Molesting, etc., Officer in execution of duty.
24. Travelling expenses.

Emigration Agencies.

25. Appointment and salary of Emigration Agent.
26. Appointment and salaries of Clerks, etc., to Emigration Agent.
27. Accounts and expenses of Emigration Agent.

PART II.

FISCAL PROVISIONS.

28. Establishment of Immigration Fund.
29. Formation of and charges upon the Immigration Fund.
30. Indenture fee.
31. Mode of payment of indenture fee.
32. Subsistence of lien notwithstanding sale, etc., of plantation.
33. Personal responsibility of purchaser to the Immigration Fund.

ROYAL ASIATIC SOCIETY

A.D. 1891.

SECTION.

34. Manner of proof on proceeding on promissory note, etc.
35. Application of payments by employer indebted on promissory notes.
36. Preferent lien for debts due to the Immigration Fund.
37. Mode of recovery of debts due to the Immigration Fund.

PART III.

ARRIVAL AND ALLOTMENT.

Application.

38. Making of application for immigrants.

First Schedule: Form No. 4.

39. Application by lessee.
40. Application by mortgagee.
41. Subsistence of application notwithstanding death, etc.
42. Application by Head of Department.
43. Refusal of application.
44. Determination of number of immigrants to be introduced.

Arrival.

45. Inspection of ship with immigrants on arrival.
46. Disposal of sick immigrant on board ship.
47. Board and lodging of immigrant on arrival.

Allotment.

48. Order of allotment.
49. Allotment for domestic service.
50. Conditions of allotment.
51. Indenture fee payable in respect of immigrant not able-bodied.
52. Mode of indenture.
First Schedule: Form No. 5: Form No. 6.
53. Detention of immigrant after allotment at the Depôt.
54. Annual publication of list of ships and of allotment of immigrants.

PART IV.

INDENTURE.

55. Right of immigrant to enforce previous contract made with him.
56. Case of previous contract made with Indian immigrant.
57. Term of indenture.
58. Special provisions respecting previous contracts.
59. Case of previous contract made with minor immigrant, etc.
60. Exemption of infant immigrant from indenture.
61. Provision as to minor immigrant.
62. Rights of minor, etc., immigrant residing on plantation.
63. Provision as to school teaching of minor immigrants.

PART V.

DWELLINGS.

64. Information about dwellings to be furnished by employer.
65. Providing of suitable dwelling for indentured immigrant.
66. Assignment and superficial capacity of dwellings.
67 Keeping of Register of dwellings.
First Schedule: Form No. 7.
68. Making of regulations in respect of dwellings.
69. Default of employer in respect of dwelling.
70. Default of indentured immigrant in respect of dwelling, etc.

PART VI.

RATIONS.

71. Providing of rations for three months after allotment.
First Schedule; Form No. 8.
72. Keeping of Muster-Roll of newly-indentured imimigrants.
73. Placing of other immigrant on rations.
74. Prohibition of sale and purchase of rations.

PART VII.

Hospitals.

Section.

75. Hospital accommodation to be provided for immigrants on plantation.
76. Certifying of hospital.
77. Right of lessee in certified hospital.
78. Withdrawal of certificate of hospital.
79. Making of hospital regulations and dietary.
80. Furniture, etc., of hospital.
First Schedule: Form No. 9: Form No. 10.
81. Employment of dispenser and assistants for hospital.
82. Duties of dispenser or principal sick nurse.
83. Visits of Government Medical Officer.

Section.

84. Treatment of patients by Government Medical Officer.
85. Responsibility of Government Medical Officer for hospital.
86. Removal of patient to Public Hospital.
87. Requisition by Medical Officer.
88. Appeal against requisition of Medical Officer.
89. Default of employer in respect of hospital arrangements.
90. Default of employer in respect of treatment of sick immigrant.
91. Misconduct of indentured immigrant in respect of hospital.
92. Obligation of hospital regulations on patient other than indentured immigrant.

A.D. 1891.

PART VIII.

Labour and Wages.

Provisions with regard to Indentured Immigrants.

93. Providing of work and payment of wage.
94. Assignment of work.
95. Duration of time work and of task work.
96. Limit of task work per diem.
97. Rate of wages for time work.
First Schedule: Form No. 11: A and B.
98. Rate of wages for task work.
99. Proceedings by immigrant for recovery of wages short-paid.
100. General procedure for recovery of wages.
101. Mode of making estimate of wages, and order thereon.
102. Assault on indentured immigrant.
103. Unlawful withholding of wages.
104. Prohibition of stoppage of wages and of payment in kind.
105. Refusal or neglect of indentured immigrant to amend work improperly performed.
106. Making of agreement for extra in field or in buildings.
107. Payment for extra time work.
108. Service as watchman.
First Schedule: Form No 12.
109. Absence from work, etc.
First Schedule: Form No. 13.
110. Excuse of physical incapacity for absence from work, etc.
111. Minor offences by indentured immigrant.
First Schedule: Form No. 14.
112. More serious offences by indentured immigrant.
First Schedule: Form No. 15.
113. Keeping of Register of Cases before Magistrate.
First Schedule: Form No. 16.
114. Prohibition of keeping of shop on or near plantation by manager, etc.

Provisions with regard to Immigrants not under Indenture.

115. Duty of person employing immigrant not under indenture.
116. Duties of manager of plantation on which are employed immigrants not under indenture.
117. Other hirings of free immigrants.

PART IX.

Leave and Desertion.

Leave.

118. Obligation of residence.
119. Unlawful absence from plantation.
First Schedule: Form No. 17.
120. Right of immigrant to leave of absence after certain amount of work done.
121. Leaving plantation for purpose of making complaint. First Schedule: Form No. 18.

Desertion.

122. Desertion.
First Schedule: Form No. 19: Form No. 20.
123. Default by manager in not preferring charge against deserter.
124. Punishment of deserter.

Supplemental Provisions.

SECTION.

125. Loss of original charge for desertion.
126. Keeping of Registers of Absences on Leave and Desertions.
First Schedule: Form No. 21: Form No. 22.
127. Apprehension of immigrant suspected of being absent without leave.
128. Refusal of immigrant apprehended to give information.
129. Absence without leave from the Depôt.
130. Employment of indentured immigrant by person not entitled to his services.
131. Disposal of indentured immigrant on release from custody.

SECTION.

132. Giving of certificate as to indentured immigrant brought in custody to plantation.
First Schedule: Form No. 23.
133. Reporting of indentured immigrant voluntarily returning to plantation.
134. Habitual idler.
First Schedule: Form No. 24.
135. Reporting of indentured immigrant on release from prison.
136. Keeping of Register of Defaulters.
First Schedule: Form No. 25.
137. Making of entries in the Register of Defaulters.
138. Correction of the Register of Defaulters.

A.D. 1891.

PART X.

MARRIAGE, DIVORCE, ETC.

139. Interpretation of term "immigrant" in Part X.

Marriage.

140. Keeping of Register of Married Immigrants arriving in the Colony.
First Schedule: Form No. 26.
141. Registration of married immigrants on arrival.
First Schedule: Form No. 27.
142. Exemption from fee for registration.
143. Keeping of Register of Marriages of Immigrants contracted in the Colony.
First Schedule: Form No. 28.
144. Marriage of Christian immigrants.
145. Prohibition of certain marriages.
146. Notification of intended marriage.
First Schedule: Form No. 29.
147. Grounds of objection to proposed marriage.
148. Making and decision of objection to proposed marriage.
149. Marriage after publication of notice.
First Schedule: Form No. 30.
150. Marriage after publication of banns.
151. Marriage according to religion and personal law.
152. Registration of marriage contracted according to religion and personal law.
First Schedule: Form No. 31: Form No. 32.
153. Making of enquiry as to contracting of marriage.

Property of Married Immigrants.

154. Protection of property of woman deserted by her husband.
155. Protection of property of man deserted by his wife.
156. Division of property of married immigrants.

Protection of Wives of Immigrants, etc.

157. Apprehension and punishment of male immigrant threatening his wife.
158. Transfer of immigrant in case of danger from jealousy.
159. Proceedings where injury to woman is apprehended.
160. Punishment of person enticing away wife of immigrant, etc.
161. Copy of proceedings for the Immigration Agent-General.

Divorce.

162. Proceedings for divorce of immigrants.
163. Keeping of Register of Divorces.
First Schedule: Form No. 33.

Offences.

164. Punishment of person making false entry in register.
165. Punishment of person signing false declaration or certificate.
166. Punishment of person forging certificate.

Supplemental Provisions.

167. Proof of marriage or divorce.
168. Use as evidence of entry in register and of certificate.
169. Appeal where registration is refused.
170. Cancellation of registration.
171. Procedure on application to the Chief Justice.
172. Right of appeal from Magistrate's order.
173. Furnishing of certified copy of entry in register.
174. Registration of existing marriages contracted according to religion and personal law.

PART XI.

TRANSFER AND DETERMINATION OF INDENTURES.

SECTION.

175. Declaring of indenture void in case of death or disability of immigrant within six months after allotment.
176. Computation of commutation money.
177. Commutation by husband or wife.
178. Commutation by mother of minor.
179. Determination of indenture by the Immigration Agent-General on payment of commutation money.
180. Transfer of immigrants.
181. Transfer of immigrant on determination of lease.

SECTION.

182. Transfer of services of immigrant on sale, etc., of plantation.
183. Other provisions as to transfer.
184. Permissible removal, temporary transfer, and determination.
185. Determination of indenture for ill-treatment.
186. Computation of duration of indenture.
187. Exclusion of certain periods in computation of term of indenture.
188. Prohibition of other transfers, etc.
189. Recording of transfers and determinations.

A.D. 1891.

PART XII.

CERTIFICATES OF EXEMPTION FROM LABOUR.

190. Granting of certificate of exemption from labour.
First Schedule: Form No. 34.
191. Granting of provisional certificate.
192. Indorsement of provisional certificate by employer.
193. Granting of certificate to disabled immigrant.

PART XIII.

PASSPORTS AND RETURN PASSAGES.

194. Granting of passport to Indian immigrant.
First Schedule: Form No. 35: Form No. 36.
195. Quitting the Colony without passport.
196. Limitations of right to passport.
197. Receiving on board ship of immigrant without passport, with intent to carry him out of the Colony.
First Schedule: Form No. 37.
198. Aiding departure of immigrant without passport.
199. Right of Indian immigrant to return passage.
200. Granting of return passage to disabled Indian immigrant.
201. Inspection, etc., of ship with return immigrants.
202. Transmission of report of inspection to the Governor.

PART XIV.

REGISTERS, RETURNS AND CERTIFICATES.

203. Half-yearly returns of deaths of immigrants in Public Institutions.
204. Registers to be kept on plantation.
First Schedule: Form No. 6: Form No. 7: Form No. 21: Form No. 22: Form No. 38: Form No. 39.
205. Half-yearly returns by employer.
First Schedule: Form No. 40.
206. Making of false entry in register, etc., by manager.
207. Medical returns, etc.
208. Loss of certificate of exemption from labour, etc.
209. Use by one immigrant of certificate or pass of another immigrant.
210. Forgery of certificate of exemption from labour.
211. Forgery of passport or pass.

PART XV.

PROCEDURE.

212. Procedure generally.
213. Power to the Immigration Agent-General to act for immigrant.
214. Appearance of the Immigration Agent-General.
215. Appearance of employer.
216. Admissibility of evidence of defendant.
217. Statement of ownership of property.
218. Proof of Indenture List, etc.
219. Power for Magistrate to order indentured immigrant before him to be conveyed to hospital.
220. Imprisonment of indentured immigrant.

A.D. 1891.

SECTION.

221. Admission of immigrant sentenced to imprisonment to bail in certain cases. First Schedule: Form No. 41.
222. Certified copy of proceedings before Magistrate.
223. Copy of warrant of commitment of immigrant.
224. Notification by Magistrate of conviction of indentured immigrant. First Schedule: Form No. 42.
225. Notification by Magistrate in case of committal for trial. First Schedule: Form No. 43.
226. Certificate of conviction before Supreme Criminal Court. First Schedule: Form No. 44.

PART XVI.

MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS.

Property of Deceased Indentured Immigrants.

227. Mode of dealing with property of deceased indentured immigrant. First Schedule: Form No. 45.
228. Protection of the Immigration Agent-General, etc., in relation to property.
229. Proceeding by manager on death of indentured immigrant.
230. Other provisions relating to property.

Care of Orphans.

231. Appointment of guardian of orphan of immigrant.
232. Interference with guardian, etc.
233. Keeping of Register of Orphans. First Schedule: Form No. 46.

Regulation of Festivals.

234. Making of regulations for government of festivals.
235. Application of regulations.
236. Contravention of regulations.
237. Prosecution of contravention.

Questions as to Age, etc.

238. Decision of question as to age of immigrant.
239. Penalty for contravention of the Ordinance not provided for.

Temporary Provisions.

240. Completion of existing indentures.
241. Existing Registers, etc.
242. Effect of existing indentures.
243. Case of existing Officers of the Immigration Department.
244. Saving as to existing Medical Districts.
245. Temporary use of existing forms.
246. Continuance of existing regulations, etc.
247. Repeal of enactments. Second Schedule.
248. Commencement of the Ordinance.

BRITISH GUIANA.

[COURT OF POLICY.]

ORDINANCE NO. 25 OF 1891.

An Ordinance to consolidate and amend the Laws relating to Asiatic Immigrants.

[29th July, 1891.]

BE it enacted by the Governor of British Guiana, with the advice and consent of the Court of Policy thereof, as follows:— A.D. 1891.

Preliminary.

1. *This Ordinance may be cited as the Immigration Ordinance, 1891.* Short title.

2. *In this Ordinance, unless the context otherwise requires,—* Interpretation of terms.

"The Immigration Agent-General" includes any Immigration Agent acting under the authority of the Immigration Agent-General:

"Ship" includes a sea-going vessel of any description:

"Plantation" means any sugar, cocoa, coffee, cotton, rice, or plantain estate in cultivation, or any two or more estates if adjacent to each other and managed as one estate, or any other piece of land in cultivation under one management of the extent of at least five acres, and includes any cattle or sheep farm or any woodcutting establishment:

"Employer" means the proprietor or lessee of a plantation or the attorney of such proprietor, and includes the manager for the time being in charge of such plantation:

"Manager" means the person for the time being having the personal charge or superintendence of a plantation and includes any overseer acting under his authority:

"Immigrant" means any person introduced into the Colony either wholly or in part at the expense of the Immigration Fund, and includes the children of an indentured immigrant; but this definition shall not affect the special definition of the term contained in Part X: THE IMMIGRATION ORDINANCE, 1891.

"Indenture" and "Indentured" mean a contract of service registered under this Ordinance and a person subject to such contract respectively:

"Adult" means an immigrant of or above the age of fifteen years:

"Minor" means an immigrant under the age of fifteen years and of or above the age of ten years:

"Infant" means an immigrant under the age of ten years:

"Adult," "Minor," and "Infant" respectively include an immigrant of uncertain age who has been estimated by the Immigration Agent-General to be an adult, minor, or infant, as the case may be:

"Asia" includes any island adjacent to the Continent of Asia.

3. This Ordinance is divided into Parts as follows:— Division of the Ordinance.

Part I.—The Immigration Department—Sections 6—27.
Part II.—Fiscal Provisions—Sections 28—37.
Part III.—Arrival and Allotment—Sections 38—54.
Part IV.—Indenture—Sections 55—63.
Part V.—Dwellings—Sections 64—70.
Part VI.—Rations—Sections 71—74.
Part VII.—Hospitals—Sections 75—92.
Part VIII.—Labour and Wages—Sections 93—117.
Part IX.—Leave and Desertion—Sections 118—138.
Part X.—Marriage, Divorce, etc.—Sections 139—174.
Part XI.—Transfer and Determination of Indentures—Sections 175—189.
Part XII.—Certificates of Exemption from Labour—Sections 190—193.

THE IMMIGRATION ORDINANCE, 1891.

Part XIII.—Passports and Return Passages—Sections 194—202.
Part XIV.—Registers, Returns, and Certificates—Sections 203—211.
Part XV.—Procedure—Sections 212—226.
Part XVI.—Miscellaneous Provisions—Sections 227—248.

Forms. First Schedule.

4. (1) The Forms set forth in the First Schedule to this Ordinance shall respectively be used for and in respect of the several matters in this Ordinance upon which reference is made to them in the margin by the respective numbers of such Forms.

(2) The Immigration Agent-General may, with the approval of the Governor and Court of Policy, from time to time cause such forms to be varied or altered, and also additional forms to be framed, as occasion may require, for the purpose of carrying out the provisions of this Ordinance, and such varied, altered or additional forms shall have the same force and effect as if they were incorporated in the said Schedule: Provided that every such form shall be first published in the Gazette, and that copies thereof shall be sent by the Immigration Agent-General to all persons required under penalties by this Ordinance to fill up and use any form for which such form may have been substituted.

Naming of places of emigration.

5. The Governor may, with the advice and consent of the Court of Policy, by Proclamation name the ports or places in Asia from which immigration is permitted to this Colony under this Ordinance.

PART I.

THE IMMIGRATION DEPARTMENT.

The Immigration Agent-General.

Appointment and salary of Immigration Agent-General.

6. (1) Her Majesty may appoint some fit and proper person to be Immigration Agent-General.

(2) The Immigration Agent-General shall receive a salary at the rate of not more than one thousand five hundred pounds per annum.

General duties of the Immigration Agent-General.

7. (1) The Immigration Agent-General shall be the Head of the Immigration Department, and shall be responsible to the Governor for the efficient performance of its duties and for the proper carrying out of the provisions of this or any other Ordinance whether passed before or after the commencement of this Ordinance, relating to immigration.

(2) He shall also keep the Registers of the Immigration Department, and shall exercise and perform such other functions and duties in relation to immigration as may be prescribed by this or any other Ordinance, whether passed before or after the commencement of this Ordinance, or as may be entrusted to him by the Governor.

(3) The Immigration Agent-General shall be Secretary to the Governor for immigration matters.

General powers of the Immigration Agent-General.

8. (1) The Immigration Agent-General may at any time enter into and upon any plantation on which immigrants may be employed, and inspect the condition and general treatment of the immigrants and the condition of their dwellings, and of the yards and grounds about the same, and of the hospital accommodation, and may inquire into any complaint which the employer may have against any immigrant, or which any immigrant may have against the employer, or which may be reported to him by the Surgeon-General or be otherwise brought to his notice, and may require any immigrant to be brought before him on any such visit, and may, either before or after such inquiry, lay an information or make a complaint in his own name, on behalf of any such immigrant, against the employer or against any other person before the Magistrate of the District, and may, if necessary, lay such information or make such complaint in any other Court of Justice of the Colony, other than that of the Magistrate of the District, having jurisdiction to hear, try, and determine the offence or other matter charged against such employer or other person.

(2) The Immigration Agent-General shall watch the proceedings on any such information or complaint on behalf of such immigrant, or may, if necessary, carry the same for review by way of appeal before any superior Court having jurisdiction in the case, and may in such superior Court retain the services of counsel, and may in all respects act on behalf of such immigrant as if he himself were the principal in the cause; and he shall report the course of such proceedings from time to time, and the final result thereof, to the Governor.

The Senior Immigration Agent.

Appointment and salary of Senior Immigration Agent.

9. (1) The Governor may appoint some fit and proper person to be Senior Immigration Agent.

(2) The Senior Immigration Agent shall receive such salary and allowances as may for the time being be assigned to him by the Combined Court.

General duties of the Senior Immigration Agent.

10. (1) The Senior Immigration Agent shall act as assistant generally to the Immigration Agent-General in the performance of his duties.

(2) In the absence of the Immigration Agent-General, anything which may by law be done or suffered by the Immigration Agent-General may be done or suffered by the Senior Immigration Agent.

(3) The Senior Immigration Agent shall be stationed at the Immigration Office in Georgetown.

Immigration Agents, etc.

Appointment, duties, and salaries of Immigration Agents, etc.

11. (1) The Governor may appoint such and so many fit and proper persons to be Immigration Agents, Clerks, Interpreters, and other Officers residing in the Colony respectively as may be necessary for the performance of the ordinary duties of the Immigration Department.

(2) The Governor may assign to any such Officer a District or place within which to act in the performance of his duties, and may at any time remove him from one such District or place to another.

(3) Every such Officer shall receive such salary and allowances as may for the time being be assigned to him by the Combined Court.

Medical Officers.

Power to the Surgeon-General to visit plantation, etc.

12. The Surgeon-General may at any time visit any plantation on which there are immigrants, and inspect the dwellings of the immigrants, the yards, and grounds about the same and the hospital, and all books and registers kept in connection with the hospital.

Appointment and salary of Medical Inspector.

13. (1) The Governor may appoint some fit and proper person, being a duly qualified medical practitioner, to be Medical Inspector.

(2) The Medical Inspector shall receive from the Treasury a salary at the rate of not more than one thousand pounds per annum.

General duties of the Medical Inspector.

14. (1) The Medical Inspector shall, once at least in every six months, visit every plantation on which there are indentured immigrants.

(2) On every such visit he shall inspect the hospital, and the dwellings of the immigrants, and the yards and grounds about the same, and shall ascertain whether the provisions of this Ordinance and of any regulations in that behalf have been duly complied with.

(3) Within one month after such visit, he shall make a report in writing, in duplicate, to the Surgeon-General of the condition and management of such hospital, and of the condition of the dwellings of the immigrants on such plantation and of the yards and grounds about the same, and of the performance of his duties under this Ordinance in relation to such plantation by the Government Medical Officer of the District.

(4) Immediately on receiving any such report, the Surgeon-General shall transmit one of the duplicate copies thereof to the Immigration Agent-General.

Duties of Government Medical Officers in immigration matters.

15. Every Government Medical Officer who has a Medical District assigned to him shall act as Medical Officer to all plantations within his District on which there are immigrants, and as medical attendant to all the hospitals certified under this Ordinance within his District.

Requisition for special visit of Government Medical Officer.

16. Whenever it appears to the Immigration Agent-General to be necessary to require, under the provisions of this Ordinance, that a special visit should be made to a plantation, or to require the presence and assistance of a Government Medical Officer in conducting any investigation under the provisions of this Ordinance on a plantation, the Immigration Agent-General may make a requisition to the Surgeon-General for the services of a Government Medical Officer for such purpose, and the Surgeon-General shall thereupon cause such services to be rendered.

Work of the Department.

Powers of supervision, etc., of the Immigration Agent-General.

17. (1) Subject to the control of the Governor, the Immigration Agent-General shall have authority over the several Immigration Agents, Clerks, Interpreters, and other persons employed in the Immigration Office, and shall, subject to the provisions of the next succeeding section, assign to each his duties, and may delegate to an Immigration Agent the exercise or performance of any of his functions or duties, but without diminution of his own responsibility, and may also employ such persons as he may deem necessary as interpreters or judges of work under the provisions of this Ordinance, and may award any such person for his services a sum not exceeding five dollars for each day on which he may be so employed.

(2) All expenses so incurred by the Immigration Agent-General, or by any subordinate Officer under his directions, shall be paid from the Immigration Fund.

Visiting of plantations by Immigration Agents.

18. It shall be the duty of every Immigration Agent, once in every six months and oftener if so required by the Immigration Agent-General, upon some day of which he shall give previous notice to the manager, to visit every plantation on which there are indentured immigrants; to receive and take cognizance of any complaints of immigrants, and thereupon to give advice, to conduct investigations, and to institute prosecutions, as the circumstances may require; and to assist the Magistrate, if required, in the estimation of wages.

Power to summon witness on inquiry.

19. (1) The Immigration Agent-General may summon any person as a witness whose evidence he considers necessary for the proper determination of any inquiry held by him under this Ordinance.

First Schedule: Form No. 1.

(2) The summons shall be served in the same manner as a summons issued by a Magistrate is required to be served.

(3) Every person on whom any such summons has been duly served who, without any reasonable excuse, refuses or neglects to attend at the time and place mentioned in such summons shall be liable to a penalty not exceeding twenty-four dollars.

Administration of oath on inquiry.

20. (1) The Immigration Agent-General may require every statement given by any person at any inquiry held by him under this Ordinance to be given upon oath, and for such purpose he is hereby authorized to administer to every such person an oath.

(2) Every person who refuses to be so sworn when thereto required shall be deemed to have hindered the Officer holding the inquiry in the execution of his duty, and shall be liable to be punished accordingly.

First Schedule: Form No. 2: Form No. 3.

(3) Every person who, after being so sworn, wilfully makes a false statement as to any matter material to the proper determination of the matter then in question shall be deemed guilty of perjury and shall be liable to be indicted and, if convicted, to be punished accordingly.

Taking of evidence on inquiry.

21. (1) The Immigration Agent-General shall, when holding any inquiry under this Ordinance, take down in writing the material portions of the statements made by the employer, by the immigrant, or by any witness, and may require the employer or witness to sign such statement if the same has been correctly taken down.

(2) Every employer or witness who refuses to sign, or, if he is unable to write, to put his mark to, the statement made by him, if the same has been correctly taken down, when required so to do by the Officer holding the inquiry, shall be deemed to have hindered such Officer in the execution of his duty, and shall be liable to be punished accordingly.

Power to require production of labour books.

22. (1) The employer of any indentured immigrant shall be bound to produce to the Immigration Agent-General whenever required so to do and as often as may be required, each and every book of accounts kept by such employer in any way relating to the labourers employed on the plantation or in any way showing the wages paid to such labourers or to any of them and to permit the Immigration Agent-General to make copies of the same or of any portion thereof.

(2) If any such employer refuses or neglects so to do, when thereto required, he shall be deemed to have hindered the Immigration Agent-General in the execution of his duty, and shall be liable to be punished accordingly.

Molesting, etc., Officer in execution of duty.

23. Every person who molests, hinders, or opposes any Officer acting under this Ordinance in the execution of his duty, or in the exercise of any of the powers or authorities conferred upon him by this Ordinance, shall be liable to a penalty not exceeding ninety-six dollars or to imprisonment, with or without hard labour, for any term not exceeding six months, or to both such penalty and imprisonment.

Travelling expenses.

24. All travelling expenses incurred by any Officer of the Immigration Department or by the Medical Inspector in the performance of his duties, and attested by proper vouchers, shall be paid from the Immigration Fund.

Emigration Agencies.

Appointment and salary of Emigration Agent.

25. (1) The Governor may appoint some fit and proper person to be Emigration Agent to superintend the emigration of labourers from any port or place in Asia from which immigrants may be introduced into this Colony.

(2) Every such Emigration Agent shall receive such salary and allowances as may for the time being be assigned to him by the Combined Court.

Appointment and salaries of Clerks, etc., to Emigration Agent.

26. (1) The Governor may, upon the recommendation of the Emigration Agent in any such port or place, appoint such and so many fit and proper persons as may be necessary as Clerks and Interpreters, or otherwise to be employed in the work of the Emigration Office of this Colony in such port or place.

(2) Every such person shall receive such salary and allowances as may for the time being be assigned to him by the Combined Court.

Accounts and expenses of Emigration Agent.

27. (1) Every Emigration Agent shall transmit his accounts to the Immigration Agent-General, with proper vouchers, at such times as the Governor may direct.

(2) The amount of all necessary expenses incurred by any such Emigration Agent in the collection, maintenance, medical attendance, and inspection of emigrants and for their conveyance to this Colony, and of all just and reasonable expenses incurred by him in or incidental to the sending back to their homes of any emigrants who may be rejected at the port of embarkation, or in or incidental to the sending back to the port from which they sailed of any emigrants entitled to free return passages under this Ordinance, which may be attested by proper vouchers, shall be paid from the Immigration Fund.

PART II.

FISCAL PROVISIONS.

Establishment of Immigration Fund.

28. For the purposes of this Ordinance there shall be a fund, to be called the Immigration Fund, which shall be administered by the Receiver-General, subject to the control of the Governor.

Formation of and charges upon the Immigration Fund.

29. The Immigration Fund shall be credited with all sums received on account of indenture fees, on account of the acreage tax leived by any Tax Ordinance for the time being in force, on account of any vote in aid of immigration for the time being made by the Combined Court, and on account of all other matters, and shall be debited with the whole annual cost of immigration under this Ordinance.

Indenture fee.

30. (1) The indenture fee payable by an employer to the Immigration Fund in respect of each adult immigrant allotted to him shall be such sum as may be from time to time fixed by Resolution of the Governor and Court of Policy; and the indenture fee payable in respect of each minor immigrant shall be one-half that which would have been payable if he had been an adult.

(2) When any immigrant is allotted to any Department for the public service of the Colony, the Department shall pay to the Immigration Fund in respect of such allotment the same sum that would have been payable by a private employer.

Mode of payment of indenture fee.

31. Unless the Governor specially requires the indenture fees on any allotment to be paid in cash, payment thereof shall be made in the following manner: One-tenth shall be paid in cash forthwith, and for the balance five promissory notes shall be given, bearing date the day of the arrival of the ship in which the immigrants were introduced, the first for one-tenth of such indenture fees, payable, with interest at the rate of five per cent. per annum at the end of one year from the date thereof, and the remaining notes, each for one-fifth thereof, payable respectively, with interest at the same rate, at the end of each of the four years then next following: Provided that if the employer refuses or neglects to pay, within six days after his account has been rendered to him by the Receiver-General, either wholly in cash, or partly in cash and partly in promissory notes as provided by this Ordinance, the amount of indenture fees payable in respect of such allotment, the whole shall thereupon fall due and become payable in cash: Provided also that on any allotment made to an employer in respect of any plantation held by him as a mortgagor, to which the mortgagee has objected in writing, or as a lessee for a term of years of which less than five years are expired, the indenture fees shall be paid in cash.

Preferent lien for debts due to the Immigration Fund.

32. The Receiver-General shall, in respect of all promissory notes payable and sums of money due to the Immigration Fund on account of any immigrants indentured on a plantation, have and hold for the same, on behalf of the Colony, a preferent lien on such plantation over and above all liens, claims, charges, and mortgages, legal and conventional, except liens and preferent rights of the Crown, and such as may have been allowed or created by any Ordinance: Provided that, in the case of a plantation under lease, where the consent of the lessor has not been given to the lessee's application for the immigrants in respect of whom such preferent lien is claimed, the plantation shall not be subject thereto, except to the extent of the interest of the lessee in his lease.

Subsistence of lien notwithstanding sale, etc., of plantation.

33. In case any plantation in respect of which promissory notes have been given by an employer under this Ordinance is sold by private contract, or at execution sale, or by the Administrator-General, or devolves by inheritance, devise, or otherwise, the preferent lien of the Receiver-General upon such plantation for the amount of all such promissory notes, with interest, shall subsist and continue, notwithstanding such sale, and notwithstanding any transport or letters of decree executed in consequence of such sale, and notwithstanding any such devolution.

Personal responsibility of purchaser to the Immigration Fund.

34.—(1) Immediately upon any such sale the purchaser shall be bound to make out and deliver to the Receiver-General on behalf of the Colony, in lieu of any such promissory note which may be outstanding, a new promissory note payable at the same date as such outstanding note, with interest thereon as from the day of sale.

(2) If any such purchaser refuses or neglects, on demand made by the Receiver-General, to make out and deliver as aforesaid any such new promissory note, the whole of such outstanding promissory notes shall immediately fall due and become payable in cash.

(3) The provisions of this section shall apply, with the necessary modifications, to the sale of any portion of a plantation.

Manner of proof on proceeding on promissory note, etc.

35. In any proceeding taken for the recovery of the amount of any promissory note payable, or of any sum of money due, to the Immigration Fund in respect of any immigrant allotted to or indentured on a plantation, it shall not be necessary to show that the person who signed such promissory note on the allotment to him of such immigrant, or to whom such immigrant was duly allotted or indentured, was the employer or other person entitled under this Ordinance to have such immigrant allotted or indentured to him in respect of the plantation from which such amount or sum is sought to be recovered, but it shall be sufficient to show that such immigrant was duly allotted or indentured, as the case may be, to perform service on such plantation.

Application of payments by employer indebted on promissory notes.

36. All sums of money which may be received in respect of immigrants by the Receiver-General to which any employer is entitled by whom any outstanding promissory notes may have been given under this Ordinance shall be applied, in the first place, to the payment of such promissory notes, whether they have at the time become due and payable or not, and in the order in which they may fall due, and any interest which may have accrued shall be paid before the principal, and the balance of such sums shall be paid in cash to the employer entitled to the same.

Mode of recovery of debts due to the Immigration Fund.

37. The Receiver-General shall, on behalf of the Colony, sue for and recover, by summary or parate execution against any plantation, all promissory notes which may at any time be payable and all sums of money which may at any time be due to the Immigration Fund in respect of such plantation.

PART III.

ARRIVAL AND ALLOTMENT.

Application.

Making of application for immigrants.

38. Every employer who desires to obtain an allotment of immigrants shall, on or before the fifteenth day of January, or such other day in each year as may be, from time to time, fixed by the Governor, send in to the Immigration Agent-General an application

THE IMMIGRATION ORDINANCE, 1891.

First Schedule: Form No. 4.

in writing specifying the number of immigrants of each nationality required, the name and situation of the plantation to which he wishes such immigrants to be assigned, and the name of the proprietor or lessee of such plantation; and the Immigration Agent-General shall register every such application in the Register of Applications for Immigrants.

Application by lessee.

39. If any such application is made by or on the part of any lessee of a plantation, it shall be accompanied by the consent in writing of the proprietor, or, in default of such consent, the lessee shall show, to the satisfaction of the Immigration Agent-General, that he is prepared to pay in cash, on allotment, the full amount of indenture fees payable in respect of the immigrants applied for.

Application by mortgagee.

40. If any such application is made by or on the part of the proprietor of a plantation under mortgage, and the mortgagee or his representative objects in writing to such application being complied with, it shall be the duty of the Immigration Agent-General to refuse such application, unless such proprietor satisfies him that he is prepared to pay in cash, on allotment, the full amount of indenture fees payable in respect of the immigrants applied for.

Subsistence of application notwithstanding death, etc.

41. No application shall be rendered invalid, or be in any way affected, by reason of the death, insolvency, or absence of the employer by whom such application was made, or by reason of the sale by private contract, or at execution sale, or by the Administrator-General of the plantation in respect of which such application has been made, and no application duly made may be withdrawn without the permission of the Immigration Agent-General.

Application by Head of Department.

42. The Head of any Department of the Public Service may, with the sanction of the Governor, apply for the allotment of such immigrants as may be required for the service of the Colony in his Department, and shall be considered, for the purposes of this Ordinance, as the employer of such immigrants as may be allotted in consequence of such application.

Refusal of application.

43. Nothing in this Ordinance shall be held to interfere with the power of the Immigration Agent-General, subject to the control of the Governor, to refuse, any application for immigrants, or to refuse to deliver immigrants, applied for on the arrival of such immigrants, if he sees reasonable grounds for such refusal, but every such refusal and the grounds thereof shall be communicated to the employer as soon thereafter as possible, and also to the Governor.

Determination of number of immigrants to be introduced.

44. When the applications for immigrants have been completed in any year, a list of such applications shall be submitted by the Immigration Agent-General to the Governor, and the question how far and in what proportions they can be complied with shall thereupon be considered and determined by the Governor and Court of Policy.

Arrival.

Inspection of ship with immigrants on arrival.

45. On the arrival in the Port of Georgetown of any ship having immigrants on board, the Immigration Agent-General, assisted by the Medical Inspector, or, in case of his absence or inability to act, by the Health Officer of the Port, shall inspect the ship and immigrants, and ascertain whether the provisions of the following Acts of Parliament, namely, the 16th and 17th Vict., cap. 84, the Chinese Passengers Acts, 1855, and the Passengers Act, 1855, and of any other statute in that behalf now or hereafter to be in force, so far as they may be applicable, have been complied with, and shall report to the Governor the condition of such ship and immigrants, and shall transmit, with such report, the Surgeon Superintendent's return of deaths and births and certificate of performance by the owners of the covenants and conditions of the charter-party, and also a certificate of the amount due for freight to such owners, and shall likewise require and transmit the report of the Medical Officer who has assisted him in the inspection.

Disposal of sick immigrant on board ship.

46. The Immigration Agent-General shall, with the assistance of the Medical Inspector, or, in his absence or inability to act, of the Health Officer of the Port, and of the Surgeon Superintendent of the ship, examine the sick, if any, among the immigrants on board, and shall cause such of them, as may need it, to be sent to the Colonial Hospital, and shall transmit with them a list, signed by the Medical Officer who has assisted him in the inspection, stating the name, sex, age, disease and length of time under treatment of every immigrant so sent, and the number by which he was designated on board ship.

Board and lodging of immigrant on arrival.

47. Every immigrant arriving in the Colony shall be provided with food and lodging in the Immigration Depôt, until he is allotted and delivered to an employer: Provided, that if an immigrant is, in the opinion of the Immigration Agent-General, not capable of performing service under indenture, such immigrant may be detained at the Depôt until he can be returned to the port or place from whence he came or until he is otherwise dealt with by the Immigration Agent-General.

Allotment.

Order of allotment.

48. Allotment shall, in the first place, be made to the Head of any Department of the Public Service of such immigrants as he may have applied for, and afterwards to the several employers who have made application, in such order as the Governor may from time to time direct, and in such manner as the Immigration Agent-General may determine.

THE IMMIGRATION ORDINANCE, 1891.

Allotment for domestic service.

49. The Immigration Agent-General may allot immigrants under this Ordinance for domestic or other service when all the approved applications for immigrants have been complied with or when any particular immigrants are, in his opinion, by their physical condition or previous occupation, more fitted for employment in domestic or other service than for agricultural labour: Provided that no such allotment shall be made without the consent of the immigrant proposed to be so allotted.

Conditions of allotment.

50. In making an allotment husbands shall not be separated from their wives, nor minors and infants from their parents or natural guardians, and, so far as may be possible, members of the same family and neighbours from the same village, and persons who may agree in representing themselves to be friends and associates, shall not be separated from each other.

Indenture fee payable in respect of immigrant not able-bodied.

51. In any allotment the Immigration Agent-General shall, with the assistance of the Medical Inspector, or, in case of his absence or inability to act, of the Health Officer of the Port, distinguish every immigrant who is, in his opinion, not able-bodied and not capable of performing service as an agricultural labourer; and the indenture fee payable in respect of any such immigrant shall be such part of that which would have been payable in respect of such immigrant, if he had been an able-bodied immigrant, as the Immigration Agent-General may think proper, or such immigrant may be indentured without payment of any indenture fee: Provided that the classification on arrival as able-bodied or otherwise shall not be regarded as applying to the whole period of indenture, if the circumstances in any case otherwise require.

Mode of indenture.

First Schedule: Form No. 5.

Form No. 6.

52. (1) On the completion of every allotment or other disposition of immigrants on introduction, the Immigration Agent-General shall register every immigrant included in such allotment or disposition in the General Register of Immigrants introduced into the Colony, distinguishing, to the best of his ability, such as are adults, minors, and infants respectively, and shall number therein each of such immigrants by a particular number, commencing from the last number borne on such Register and proceeding by regular numerical progression, and shall deliver to the employer an Indenture List, signed by himself, and a duplicate of such list shall be signed and delivered by the employer to the Immigration Agent-General.

(2) On the delivery of such list, every immigrant mentioned therein shall become bound by such indenture.

(3) The Immigration Agent-General shall also transmit to the Receiver-General, a return showing the number of immigrants included in such allotment, and the sums payable by way of indenture fees or otherwise in respect of such immigrants.

Detention of immigrant after allotment at the Depôt.

53. If any employer to whom an allotment is made does not take away the immigrants allotted to him within four days after receiving notice that they are ready for delivery, or if the Immigration Agent-General deems it necessary to detain such immigrants at the Depôt on account of satisfactory accommodation not having been provided for them at the plantation to which they are allotted, or for any other cause which, in the opinion of the Immigration Agent-General, renders such detention necessary, the employer shall pay to the Immigration Fund at the rate of sixteen cents for each adult immigrant and eight cents for each minor and infant immigrant for every day that such immigrant remains at the Depôt.

Annual publication of list of ships and of allotment of immigrants.

54. The Immigration Agent-General shall, as soon as possible after the first day of April in every year, publish in the Gazette a list of all ships which have arrived with immigrants, and a statement of the allotment and distribution of such immigrants, during the preceding season.

PART IV.

INDENTURE.

Right of immigrant to enforce previous contract made with him.

55. If any immigrant is introduced into the Colony under a previous contract entered into with any Emigration Agent or other Officer of the Emigration Office of this Colony in the Country from which he may have emigrated, or with any employer or agent of an employer, such contract shall be valid and enforceable in every respect as against the Colony or the employer, as the case may be, and, in so far as the rights of such immigrant may exceed or vary from the rights which he would have enjoyed under this Ordinance if he had not entered into such contract, he shall be entitled to the benefit of such contract.

Case of previous contract made with Indian immigrant.

56. Except by permission of Her Majesty's Government previously had and obtained, no previous contract entered into with any immigrant from any part of India shall be valid as against such immigrant.

Term of indenture.

57. The indenture of any immigrant arriving in the Colony from any part of Her Majesty's Dominions in the East Indies, and, in the absence of any previous contract made out of the Colony in that behalf, of any male immigrant arriving in the Colony from any other part of Asia, shall be for the term of five years from the date of his allotment.

Special provisions respecting previous contracts.

58. Upon the indenture of any immigrant introduced under any previous contract, a copy of such contract shall be preserved in the Immigration Office, and other copies of such contracts shall be appended to the indenture list given to the employer; and the indenture shall be subject to such contract in so far as such contract is enforceable under this Ordinance.

Case of previous contract made with minor immigrant, etc.

59. No minor or infant immigrant shall be bound by any such previous contract, whether the same is alleged to have been entered into by himself or on his behalf.

Exemption of infant immigrant from indenture.

60. (1) No infant immigrant shall be indentured or shall be compelled to perform any service whatever upon any plantation: Provided that where any immigrant is under the age of ten years on introduction into the Colony, he shall, on attaining that age, be deemed to be under indenture until the expiration or determination of the indenture of the relative or friend under whose charge such immigrant has been introduced, and shall be deemed to be under indenture to the employer to whom such relative or friend is indentured until such event as aforesaid.

(2) At the determination or expiration of the indenture of such relative or friend, every immigrant who has been introduced under the age of ten years shall be entitled to a certificate of exemption from labour, whether he has been indentured or not.

Provision as to minor immigrant.

61. Every indentured minor immigrant shall, on attaining the age of fifteen years, become an indentured adult immigrant.

Rights of minor, etc., immigrant residing on plantation.

62. Every minor or infant immigrant residing on a plantation, and every immigrant indentured as other than an able-bodied immigrant, shall be entitled to the same rights, privileges, and immunities as able-bodied immigrants under indenture are entitled to under this Ordinance.

Provision as to school teaching of minor immigrants.

63. A minor immigrant shall not be indentured to any employer who has not previously made all available provision, to the satisfaction of the Governor, for the instruction of such minor immigrant in reading, writing, and the elements of arithmetic.

PART V.

DWELLINGS.

Information about dwellings to be furnished by employer.

64. No immigrants allotted to a plantation shall be delivered to the employer until the employer has furnished the Immigration Agent-General with any information required by him with regard to the dwellings to be assigned to such immigrants.

Providing of suitable dwelling for indentured immigrant.

65. Every employer shall at all times provide an immigrant under indenture upon his plantation with a suitable dwelling and keep such dwelling in sufficient repair and the roofs of the same water-tight, and shall keep the yard and grounds for a sufficient space round about such dwelling well drained, and the drains clean and in good order, and the yard and grounds free from bush and from weeds and rubbish of every description, except as hereinafter provided.

Assignment and superficial capacity of dwellings.

66. No dwelling which is, in the opinion of the Medical Inspector, unfit for habitation shall be assigned to any indentured immigrant; and no greater number of immigrants shall be assigned to any dwelling or separate apartment, except with the special permission of the Medical Inspector, than at the rate of one adult to every fifty feet of superficial space, or of three single men or of one man and one woman with not more than two children, to every one apartment of not less than one hundred and twenty feet of superficial space.

Keeping of Register of Dwellings. First Schedule: Form No. 7.

67. (1) Every manager shall keep a Register of all such Dwellings on his plantation as are, or are intended to be, assigned to indentured immigrants for their habitation, and shall from time to time enter on such register the names of all the indentured immigrants in each house or apartment.

(2) Such register shall be at all times open to the inspection of the Immigration Agent-General, of the Medical Inspector, and of the Government Medical Officer, and the Medical Inspector shall mark therein, under his signature, such dwellings as he may from time to time consider to be unfit for habitation, and also such dwellings as he may have permitted to be occupied in excess of the scale authorized by this Ordinance, with his reasons for such permission, and shall also make therein such requisitions as he may deem necessary for ensuring the sanitary fitness of such dwellings for habitation; and every such requisition shall be complied with by the employer: Provided that if the employer considers any such requisition unreasonable, he may make such representation as is hereinafter provided in the case of requisitions in the Hospital Register.

Making of regulations in respect of dwellings.

68. (1) The Immigration Agent-General may, with the assistance of the Medical Inspector, make such regulations as may seem necessary for the proper construction, arrangement, and drainage of the dwellings of indentured immigrants, with the yards and grounds about the same.

(2) All such regulations shall be subject to the approval of the Governor and Court of Policy, and copies thereof shall be sent to the manager of every plantation on which there are indentured immigrants.

Default of employer in respect of dwelling.

69. Every employer who—

(1) Fails to provide any immigrant indentured to him with a suitable dwelling; or

(2) In any respect refuses or neglects to comply with the provisions of this Ordinance, or with the regulations made thereunder, in respect of the repair, occupation, arrangement, and drainage of such dwellings, or in respect of the Register of Dwellings,

shall be liable, on the complaint of any immigrant thereby aggrieved or of the Immigration Agent-General, to a penalty not exceeding twenty-four dollars.

Default of indentured immigrant in respect of dwelling.

70. Every indentured immigrant who—

(1) Refuses or neglects to keep the yard and the drain, if any, at the front and the back of his dwelling, for a space not exceeding twenty feet on either side, free from bush and from weeds and rubbish of every description; or

(2) Keeps his dwelling in so filthy or unwholesome a state as to be a nuisance or injurious to health; or

(3) Refuses or neglects, within a reasonable time after being thereto required by the manager, to remove any nuisance or substance injurious to health from his dwelling, or to remove any such nuisance or substance which he may have caused or placed in the immediate proximity of his own or of any other dwelling; or

(4) Commits any nuisance on any dam or common thoroughfare of the plantation or in the vicinity of any dwelling on the plantation; or

(5) Willfully causes any obstruction to any drain or trench on the plantation; or

(6) Wilfully fouls any fresh-water pond or trench of the plantation,

shall be liable to a penalty not exceeding five dollars or to imprisonment for any term not exceeding fourteen days.

PART VI.

RATIONS.

Providing of rations for three months after allotment. First Schedule: Form No. 8.

71. Every employer to whom any immigrants may be allotted shall, for three months from and after the first date of delivery to him of the immigrants included in such allotment, provide and distribute daily and every day to every such immigrant, being an adult, such rations of food as are specified in the First Schedule to this Ordinance, or in such varied or other scheme as may be from time to time put forth by the Immigration Agent-General, with the sanction of the Governor and Court of Policy, and to every such immigrant, being a minor, one-half of such rations, and to every such immigrant, being an infant, one-third of such rations, and may, week by week, deduct the cost of his rations for the week from any wages earned by such immigrant during the week, in the case of an adult at the rate of eight cents, and in the case of a minor at the rate of four cents, for every day's rations furnished to them respectively; but no deduction shall be made by or allowed to any employer in respect of rations supplied to an infant immigrant or in respect of rations furnished in any previous week: Provided that no immigrant who, before being allotted, has been resident in this Colony or in any place in the West Indies for a period of twelve months at any time preceding such allotment shall be required to receive such rations, unless he himself desires it.

Keeping of Muster-Roll of newly-indentured immigrants.

72. Every manager shall keep a Muster-Roll of all immigrants who have been allotted to the plantation within the then next preceding twelve months, and such Muster-Roll shall, on some stated day in every month, be called over in the presence of the Government Medical Officer, when every immigrant whose name is therein inscribed shall be produced by the manager, and his state of health and sanitary condition ascertained by the Government Medical Officer.

Placing of other immigrant on rations.

73. The Immigration Agent-General may, on the recommendation of the Government Medical Officer, or, in any case of emergency, the Government Medical Officer may, subject to the approval of the Immigration Agent-General, direct any indentured immigrant to be placed in the receipt of daily rations, either for a certain period or until further direction; and such immigrant shall be thereupon inscribed on the Muster-Roll and shall be in all respects subject to the provisions of this Ordinance in respect of new-comers therein inscribed: Provided that no such immigrant shall remain inscribed on the Muster-Roll beyond the space of six months without a fresh order: Provided also that every such immigrant, while he remains on the Muster-Roll, shall be considered other than an able-bodied immigrant.

Prohibition of sale and purchase of rations.

74. (1) Every immigrant rationed under this Ordinance who sells or barters any ration, or part of a ration, which has been furnished under this Ordinance shall be liable to imprisonment for any term not exceeding fourteen days.

(2) Every person who takes, by way of purchase or barter, from any immigrant rationed under this Ordinance any such ration, or part of a ration, shall be liable to a penalty not exceeding twenty-four dollars or to imprisonment for any term not exceeding one month, or to both such penalty and imprisonment.

PART VII.

HOSPITALS.

Hospital accommodation to be provide for immigrants on plantation.

75. (1) No immigrant shall be allotted to or indentured on any plantation upon or for which there is not or are not a hospital or hospitals certified or hereafter to be certified under this Ordinance, and capable of affording accommodation for all immigrants on such plantation at the rate of at least ten beds for not more than fifty immigrants, fifteen beds

for from fifty to one hundred immigrants, and five for every hundred immigrants after the first hundred, and affording separate accommodation for male and female immigrants.

(2) No joint hospital for two or more plantations, and no hospital which is not situated upon the plantation for which it is intended, shall be allowed without a certificate in its favour from the Medical Inspector, and no such certificate shall be given without special permission from the Immigration Agent-General.

Certifying of hospital.

76. (1) The Medical Inspector shall, on the request of any employer, inspect the site and examine the plans for any building proposed to be erected or altered as a certified hospital under this Ordinance, and shall direct to be made therein such changes and alterations as may, in his opinion, be necessary for ensuring the proper construction, ventilation, and drainage of such hospital, and shall certify any building erected in compliance with such directions and with the provisions of this Ordinance, or which has been altered so as to comply with the same, as a certified hospital for the purposes of this Ordinance, and shall state in such certificate the number of patients which such hospital is capable of accommodating.

(2) Except, as provided for in such certificate, no part of any certified hospital, or of the space under the same, shall be used for any purpose, except the accommodation and treatment of patients.

(3) No structural alteration shall be made in any certified hospital, unless the same has been approved by the Medical Inspector.

Right of lessee in certified hospital.

77. Any lessee of a plantation, who, in accordance with any requisition of the Medical Inspector, provides a new hospital or additional hospital accommodation for immigrants under indenture on such plantation, shall be entitled to receive such compensation therefor from the lessor, on the termination of his lease, as may be awarded to him by two arbitrators to be appointed by himself and the lessor, respectively, or by such umpire as the arbitrators may appoint.

Withdrawal of certificate of hospital.

78. (1) If at any time the accommodation afforded in any certified hospital falls short of that required by this Ordinance as aforesaid, or if any certified hospital appears to the Government Medical Officer to be for any reason unfitted for the purpose of, and improper to be used as, a certified hospital, the Government Medical Officer shall make a report in writing of the matter to the Medical Inspector, and the Medical Inspector shall, at his next regular visit, or sooner in case of urgency, examine into the matter, and, after conferring thereupon with the employer and with the Government Medical Officer, shall make such report to the Surgeon-General as may, in his opinion, be necessary and proper.

(2) If the Medical Inspector reports that such hospital ought not to continue any longer to be a certified hospital, the Surgeon-General shall forthwith transmit a duplicate copy of such report to the Immigration Agent-General, who may, subject to the approval of the Governor, withdraw the certificate of such hospital; and if the employer does not, within twelve months after the withdrawal of such certificate or within such further period as the Governor may allow, provide some other building proper to be certified as a hospital under this Ordinance, it shall be lawful for the Immigration Agent-General to remove all or any of the indentured immigrants from such plantation, and to transfer any such immigrants for the unexpired remainder of their terms of service to any other employer who may be willing to accept their services and to pay the commutation money: Provided that any hospital from which the certificate has been so withdrawn shall, notwithstanding such withdrawal, continue to be regarded as a certified hospital with respect to all matters connected with the maintenance of discipline and the enforcement of the hospital regulations under this Ordinance.

Making of hospital regulations and dietary.

79. (1) The Immigration Agent-General may, with the assistance of the Surgeon-General, make such regulations as he may think fit for the proper arrangement and management of certified hospitals, and shall specify therein the furniture, medicines and appliances, and the quantities of each, which are to be kept supplied in each hospital for the use of the same, and shall also, with the like assistance, frame the dietary which is to be used in such hospitals.

(2) All such regulations and every such dietary shall be subject to the approval of the Governor and Court of Policy, and shall, when approved, be published in the Gazette, and copies of the same, with translations thereof, or such parts thereof affecting the rights and obligations of immigrants as the Immigration Agent-General may select, into the several languages of the immigrants residing in the Colony, shall be transmitted by the Immigration Agent-General to the manager of each plantation on which there may be a certified hospital, and shall be at all times kept suspended within such hospital in such place and manner as to be generally legible.

Furniture, etc., of hospital.

80. (1) The employer shall, at all times, keep the hospital properly furnished with such bedding, utensils and other furniture, and the dispensary thereof supplied with such medicines, medical stores and surgical appliances, as may be required by the hospital regulations, and shall provide for the continual supply to the hospital in sufficient quantities of all articles of food comprised in the dietary, and also of such extras as may be specially prescribed by the Government Medical Officer, and shall also provide a Case Book and a Hospital Register to be kept in the hospital, and shall record in the Case Book any failure of the Government Medical Officer to visit the hospital at the times and in the manner directed by this Ordinance.

First Schedule: Form No. 9: Form No. 10.

(2) Such Case Book and Hospital Register shall be at all times open to the inspection of the Immigration Agent-General, of the Medical Inspector, and of the Government Medical

Officer, and shall be produced in any Court, if the presiding Judge or Magistrate so requires, in any proceeding taken under this Ordinance by or against any immigrant. THE IMMIGRATION ORDINANCE, 1891.

Employment of dispenser and assistants for hospital.

81. (1) The employer shall employ in the hospital and pay at least one qualified dispenser or principal sick nurse, and shall also, if and whenever the Government Medical Officer so requires, employ such additional assistants as may be necessary for the proper care of the patients in the hospital, and shall, if there are female patients, provide a female as well as a male sick nurse.

(2) If at any time the Government Medical Officer is of opinion that any person employed in the hospital as a dispenser or assistant is, by reason of misconduct or incapacity, unfit to be so employed, he shall make an entry to that effect in the Hospital Register, and shall immediately report such entry to the Medical Inspector, and, if the Medical Inspector so directs, in writing addressed to the employer, the employer shall without delay remove such person and appoint some other fit and proper person in his place.

Duties of dispenser or principal sick nurse.

82. (1) The dispenser or principal sick nurse shall constantly reside on the premises of the hospital, and shall have charge of all furniture, medicines, stores, and appliances belonging thereto, and shall draw upon and account to the employer for all stores supplied to the patients by way of diet or otherwise, and shall in all matters affecting the health or comfort of the patients be subject to the orders of the Government Medical Officer, and shall, subject to such orders, attend the patients, make up and administer the medicines, and serve out the diets as the Government Medical Officer may direct, and shall report to him any badness in the quality or defect in the quantity of such furniture, medicines, stores, and appliances, and shall enter in the Case Book the name and description of every immigrant brought to the hospital, and shall enter in the Hospital Register the name and description of every patient admitted by the Government Medical Officer, with the date of his admission and of his discharge, the nature of his disease or injury, and the result of the case, and shall keep an account of all stores expended in the service of the hospital, and of the prices paid for all such stores as he is himself authorized by the employer to purchase.

(2) Such account shall be at all times open to the inspection of the Immigration Agent-General, of the Medical Inspector, and of the Government Medical Officer, and shall be produced in any Court, if the presiding Judge or Magistrate so requires, in any proceeding taken under this Ordinance by or against any immigrant.

Visits of Government Medical Officer.

83. The Government Medical Officer shall visit each plantation in his District upon which there may be any indentured immigrants at least once in every forty-eight hours, Sundays excepted, and oftener in cases of emergency, or if specially summoned by the manager in any such case, or if specially required by the Surgeon-General, and shall, on every such visit, sign his name, with the date and hour of such signature, in the Case Book; and shall, from time to time and as he may be directed by the Surgeon-General, visit the dwellings of the immigrants and the yards and grounds about the same, and shall order every indentured immigrant on the plantation whom he may consider to require medical treatment to be treated either as an in-or out-patient, as the case may require, and shall report to the Surgeon-General every case of neglect on the part of the manager to send to hospital or to produce before him any indentured immigrant who should be so sent or produced.

Treatment of patients by Government Medical Officer.

84. The Government Medical Officer shall, in the case of every patient brought to him for treatment or treated by him on a plantation, record in the Case Book any disease or injury from which such patient may appear to be suffering, with the remedies prescribed and the diet ordered in each case, and whether he is treated as an in- or out-patient, and shall inform every in-patient of the diet prescribed for him, and whether stimulants and other extras are to be given with such diet; and, in case of complaint, shall ascertain whether such diet and extras have been duly given.

Responsibility of Government Medical Officer for hospital.

85. (1) The Government Medical Officer shall see that the hospital, with all bedding, utensils, and other furniture belonging thereto, is at all times kept clean and in proper order, and that there is at all times a sufficient supply of the medicines and food required by the hospital regulations and dietary.

(2) He shall note in the Hospital Register any badness in the quality or defect in the quantity of the furniture, medicines, stores, and appliances of the hospital and any other neglect or violation of the provisions of this Part or of the hospital regulations and dietary on the part of the employer or of any officer or servant of the plantation, and any omission or delinquency on the part of the hospital dispenser or principal sick nurse, not amounting to ground for his dismissal, and shall require the employer to provide such remedy for the evil or to take such precautions against it as may, in his opinion, be necessary.

Removal of patient to Public Hospital.

86. The Government Medical Officer may require the manager, by an entry made in the Hospital Register, to remove to any Public Hospital any immigrant patient in a certified hospital whose case may seem to him to require such removal, and the employer of any indentured immigrant who may be admitted into any Public Hospital, either upon the requisition of the Government Medical Officer or when sent thither by the Immigration Agent-General or otherwise, shall pay to the Receiver-General the sum of twenty-five cents for each day that such indentured immigrant remains in such Hospital, and also, in case such immigrant dies in such Hospital, the expense of the burial of such immigrant: Provided that the Governor may at any time, upon the recommendation of the Surgeon-General, by notice in the Gazette suspend the operation of this section as regards either of such hospitals for such term as may be necessary: Provided also that no employer shall be liable to the Receiver-General in respect of any immigrant admitted into a Public Hospital who has deserted from

his plantation and for whose apprehension he has taken out a warrant as hereinafter provided: Provided also that if the Medical Officer of either of such hospitals certifies, as to any such immigrant patient, that he is labouring under incurable insanity or leprosy, the liability of the employer under this section shall, in respect of such immigrant, absolutely cease and determine.

Requisition by Medical Officer.

87. (1) The Medical Inspector and the Government Medical Officer shall respectively make in the Hospital Register such requisitions as they may deem necessary in relation to the hospital.

(2) Every such requisition shall be complied with by the employer, and the Medical Inspector or the Government Medical Officer shall report every case of non-compliance or of unnecessary delay in complying with any such requisition to the Surgeon-General, and the Surgeon-General shall forward every such report, with his own remarks thereon, to the Immigration Agent-General.

Appeal against requisition of Medical Officer.

88. (1) If any employer represents to the Immigration Agent-General that any requisition made by the Medical Inspector or the Government Medical Officer is unreasonable, or that the course of treatment pursued by the Government Medical Officer is in any respect injudicious or extravagant, or that he has any other just cause of complaint against the Medical Inspector or the Government Medical Officer in respect of the management of the hospital or the treatment of the patients, the Immigration Agent-General shall cause full inquiry to be made into the matter, and may require the Medical Inspector to annul such requisition, or to give such other directions or instructions in the matter to the Government Medical Officer as he may think necessary.

(2) Every employer and every Medical Officer shall be bound by the decision of the Immigration Agent-General, subject to the approval of the Governor.

Default of employer in respect of hospital arrangements.

89. Every employer who in any respect refuses or neglects to comply with the provisions of this Ordinance, or of the hospital regulations and dietary, in respect of the arrangement and management of any certified hospital, or of the treatment of patients, or with any requisition made in pursuance thereof in the Hospital Register by the Medical Inspector or by the Government Medical Officer, or with any requisition of the dispenser or principal sick nurse made in carrying out any prescription or diet order which has been entered by the Government Medical Officer in the Case Book, shall be liable, on the complaint of the Immigration Agent-General, to a penalty not exceeding forty-eight dollars.

Default of employer in respect of treatment of sick immigrant.

90. Every employer who—

(1) Refuses or neglects to send to hospital any indentured immigrant on the plantation who is in need of medical care or treatment in hospital; or

(2) Fails, at any visit of the Government Medical Officer, to produce before him any such immigrant who may require medical care or treatment; or

(3) Refuses or neglects to provide any such immigrant with the medicines, medical comforts, and diet which may be ordered for him while under treatment by the Government Medical Officer,

shall be liable, on the complaint of such immigrant, to a penalty not exceeding twenty-four dollars.

Misconduct of indentured immigrant in respect of hospital.

91. Every indentured immigrant who—

(1) After being sent to the hospital by any duly authorized person, or after having voluntarily gone to the hospital, is found beyond the limits of such hospital before he has been discharged by the Government Medical Officer; or

(2) Refuses or neglects to go to the hospital when ordered by his employer so to do; or

(3) Refuses or neglects to appear at any time when required so to do before the Government Medical Officer; or

(4) Resists any lawful order for his conveyance to the hospital or his production before the Government Medical Officer; or

(5) Contravenes any of the hospital regulations; or

(6) Behaves himself in a disorderly or refractory manner while in the hospital,

shall be liable to a penalty not exceeding five dollars or to imprisonment for any term not exceeding fourteen days.

Obligation of hospital regulations on other than indentured immigrant.

92. Every person who is admitted into the hospital of a plantation for treatment on his own request or with his own consent, or without such consent in case of inability to express consent, shall be bound by the hospital regulations in the same manner as an indentured immigrant.

PART VIII.

LABOUR AND WAGES.

Provisions with regard to Indentured Immigrants.

Providing of work and payment of wages.

93. (1) The employer shall provide every indentured immigrant on his plantation with sufficient work for a full day's labour on every day (except Sundays and authorized holidays) on which field work is not rendered impossible by reason of bad weather,

and shall pay him wages, either by the task or by the day, weekly, on the same day in every week, unless such day falls on an authorized holiday, in which case payment shall be made on the previous business day.

(2) If any indentured immigrant, being willing and able to work, is not provided with work on any working day, he shall be entitled to his full day's wages for every day on which work is not so provided for him.

Assignment of work.

94.—(1) The employer may require any indentured immigrant to perform, by way either of task work or of time work, any work for which he is not physically unfit; but all work, whether in the buildings or otherwise, which requires the co-operation of more than two labourers at once, in such a fashion that the indolence of one or more may prevent another from earning the full amount of wages which otherwise he might have earned in a day, shall be paid for by the day and not by the task.

(2) The employer shall inform every immigrant, upon the assignment to him of any task or time work, whether he is to be paid wages for it by the day, and at what rate for the task or day respectively.

Duration of time work and of task work.

95. Subject to the provision for leave of absence from the plantation hereinafter contained, every indentured immigrant shall be present at the work assigned to him on every day (except Sundays and authorized holidays), in the field for seven hours and in the buildings for ten hours: Provided that no immigrant employed in field labour who has been present at the work assigned to him for forty-two hours and has earned one dollar and fifty cents wages during the week shall be compelled to be again present at work during that week.

Limit of task work per diem.

96. No task shall be of greater extent than can be performed by the immigrant to whom it is assigned within one working day of seven hours without extraordinary exertion.

Rate of wages for time work.

97.—(1) The employer shall pay to every indentured immigrant employed in time work day wages at the rate, for each day during which such immigrant has been present at work for the full time prescribed by this Ordinance, of not less than twenty-four cents if he is indentured as an able-bodied adult immigrant, and not less than sixteen cents if he is indentured as other than an able-bodied adult immigrant: Provided that if any indentured immigrant is, in the opinion of the Government Medical Officer, physically incapable of earning the minimum amount at the ordinary rates of wages, the Government Medical Officer may direct that his name be placed on a list to be called the "Invalid List," and any immigrant whose name is entered on this list shall receive daily rations and be given work suitable to his condition and be paid such wages proportionate to the work as may be approved by the Immigration Agent-General, or the Immigration Agent-General may, if he thinks fit and with the consent of the employer, cancel the indenture of any such immigrant and provide him, if he so desires, with a return passage to the port or place from whence he came.

First Schedule: Form No. 11: A and B.

(2) The employer shall keep a Pay List of all wages paid to indentured immigrants on his plantation.

Rate of wages for task work.

98. The rate of wages for any description of task work performed shall not be less than that ordinarily paid for the same description of work to the creole and other unindentured labourers working on the same plantation; and if there are no such labourers, or if they are paid less than the average rate paid for the same description of work to such labourers on neighbouring plantations, then not less than such average rate; and if there are no such labourers performing the same description of work on neighbouring plantations, then it shall not be less that ordinarily paid for the same description of work to indentured labourers upon neighbouring plantations: Provided that the wages agreed upon for a task shall in no case be less than the minimum amount of day wages payable for time work.

Proceedings by immigrant for recovery of wages short-paid.

99. If an indentured immigrant is dissatisfied with the amount of wages tendered for any time or task work assigned to him by the employer, he may after performance of the time or task work in question, proceed in a summary manner before the Magistrate of the District to recover any deficiency by which the wages so tendered fall short of a fair remuneration for the work so performed, or may lay an information or make a complaint against the employer for the unlawful withholding of wages duly earned; and such information or complaint may be turned by the Magistrate into such proceedings for recovery, if he is of opinion, after hearing the case, that there exist grounds for further inquiry before estimating such wages.

General procedure for recovery of wages.

100.—(1) In any proceeding for the recovery of wages by an indentured immigrant, it shall not be necessary for such immigrant to take out a summons against the employer, or to make a formal information or complaint therefore; but the Magistrate may, upon receiving from such immigrant any verbal statement of complaint, require of the manager a statement in writting of the work in question performed by such immigrant, and of the wages paid therefor, together with any other material facts or documents.

(2) If the matter at issue appears to be such as should be tried upon a complaint for the unlawful withholding of wages, the Magistrate shall forthwith issue, free of cost, a summons to the employer to appear and answer such complaint, and shall proceed thereupon as if the immigrant had in the first place made such complaint, and shall give notice to the immigrant accordingly; but if the rate of wages is the subject-matter of dispute, the Magistrate shall forthwith proceed to estimate, to the best of his ability, what is a fair remuneration for the work in question.

Mode of making estimate of wages, and order thereon.

101.—(1) In making such estimate, whether for time or task work, the Magistrate shall have regard, in the first place, to the rule hereinbefore laid down for determining the

rate of task wages, and, in the second place, to the rates paid to indentured immigrants on neighbouring plantations for descriptions of work most nearly similar to that in question; and it shall be lawful for him to summon witnesses skilled in the valuation of labour, and to allow such witnesses their travelling expenses and payment for their time, at a rate not exceeding five dollars a day for a manager, forty-eight cents a day for a day labourer, and two dollars a day for any other person.

(2) The Immigration Agent-General shall, on his request, supply the Magistrate with any information in his possession which may assist him in forming a decision, and shall, if necessary, hold an investigation upon the spot of the circumstances material to the question, and report to the Magistrate the result thereof.

(3) The Magistrate shall make such order in the premises as to him may seem just, and shall direct by whom and in what proportions the cost of the proceedings shall be paid, and shall specify in such order the grounds of his decision, and shall forward a copy thereof to the Immigration Agent-General.

(4) Every such order shall be enforceable, and every payment directed thereby shall be recoverable, in the same manner as in the case of any order made in the exercise of the ordinary summary jurisdiction; and every such order shall be final and without appeal.

Assault on indentured immigrant.

102. If any employer, manager, or officer of a plantation assaults, or in any way ill-uses, an immigrant indentured on such plantation, he shall be liable to a penalty not exceeding forty-eight dollars, or to imprisonment, with or without hard labour, for any term not exceeding two months, or to both such penalty and imprisonment.

Unlawful withholding of wages.

103. (1) If any employer, manager, or officer of a plantation unlawfully withholds or causes to be withheld any wages earned by an indentured immigrant, he shall be liable to a penalty not exceeding forty-eight dollars.

(2) The Magistrate shall order any such wages to be paid, and shall report every conviction under this or the last preceding section, together with such circumstances of aggravation or extenuation as to him may seem noteworthy, to the Immigration Agent-General.

Prohibition of stoppage of wages and of payment in kind.

104. (1) Except as hereinafter provided, all wages duly earned by an indentured immigrant shall be paid in money, without any deduction; and every stoppage of wages duly earned by any such immigrant, and every postponement of payment of such wages beyond the next pay-day after such wages are due, and any payment of wages in kind, shall be taken to be an unlawful withholding of wages.

(2) No manager who supplies goods on credit to his indentured immigrant shall be entitled to stop the price thereof out of any wages which may be thereafter earned by such immigrant.

Refusal or neglect of indentured immigrant to amend work improperly performed.

105. Every indentured immigrant who, without reasonable excuse, refuses or neglects to amend any work duly thrown out for an improper performance, shall, on the first conviction, be liable to a penalty not exceeding five dollars or to imprisonment for any term not exceeding fourteen days, and, on a second or any subsequent conviction, to a penalty not exceeding ten dollars or to imprisonment for any term not exceeding one month, and shall further forfeit any such portion of the wages which may be due for such work as the Magistrate may think proper, and the manager may suspend the payment of any such wages, pending any proceedings which he may have taken against such immigrant for such refusal or neglect: Provided that no work shall be taken to have been duly thrown out for improper performance, unless the manager has taken down the work on the spot the same day or the next day after such work has been done, nor unless the manager has informed the immigrant upon the spot that his work is thrown out, or, in case he is absent, so soon after as is possible, and has specified the ground or matter of his objection to the work done, and has required him to amend the same.

Making of agreement for extra time in field or in buildings.

106. (1) An indentured immigrant may bind himself, by agreement with his employer, made in the presence of two witnesses and terminable on the next weekly pay-day, to work extra time in the field: Provided that the description of work to be assigned to him during such extra time shall be expressly stipulated beforehand.

(2) An indentured immigrant may bind himself, by ageement with his employer, made in the presence of two witnesses and terminable on the next weekly pay-day, to work extra time in the buildings, and the employer may assign to him during such extra time any work in the buildings which he is physically competent to perform; but no indentured immigrant shall be compellable under any such agreement to work on any one day for more than six hours of extra time, or to perform work of a different description from any such as he may, by his agreement, have expressly stipulated for.

(3) In the absence of any previous agreement to that effect, an indentured immigrant employed in the buildings may be on any day required to work extra time not exceeding six hours: Provided that the intention to require extra time shall be communicated to him at least one hour before the expiration of the ordinary time, and that, if he then gives notice of his refusal to continue any longer at work, he shall be entitled to leave work one hour after the expiration of the ordinary time.

Payment for extra time work.

107. All extra time work shall be paid for by the hour, at a rate not less than that at which ordinary time work is paid for; and the same provisions, remedies, and penalties in respect of the due performance of work and payment of wages shall apply to service as a watchman and to extra time work, whether under agreement or otherwise, as are contained in this Part with reference to ordinary work.

THE IMMIGRATION ORDINANCE, 1891.

Service as watchman.

108. (1) No indentured immigrant shall be bound to serve as a watchman, but he may bind himself by an agreement with his employer, made in the presence of two witnesses, to serve as a watchman on the plantation for any term not longer than one month or from month to month, and unless he gives notice of his wish not to serve any longer as a watchman at least seven days before the expiration of any month's service, he may be compelled to serve for the next month.

(2) Every indentured immigrant who, after having agreed to serve as a watchman,—

(*a*) Unlawfully neglects his duty as such watchman; or

(*b*) Unlawfully neglects to serve as a watchman during the period for which he has agreed to serve or for which he is bound to serve,

First Schedule: Form No. 12.

shall be liable to a penalty not exceeding ten dollars or to imprisonment for any term not exceeding one month.

(3) It shall be necessary, before any such immigrant can be convicted for any offence under this section, to prove that such immigrant had previously agreed to serve as a watchman.

Absence from work, etc.

First Schedule: Form No. 13.

109. (1) Every indentured immigrant who—

(*a*) Without lawful excuse, absents himself from work; or

(*b*) Having been directed by some duly authorized person to attend at a specified time and place for the performance of any particular work, refuses or neglects so to attend; or

(*c*) Refuses or neglects to begin or to finish any particular work which he has been directed by some duly authorized person to perform,

shall be liable to a penalty not exceeding ten dollars or to imprisonment for any term not exceeding one month.

(2) It shall be sufficient for the purposes of this section if any direction herein referred to is given on the afternoon or evening of the day before or on the same day on which the work is required to be performed.

Excuse of physical incapacity for absence from work, etc.

110. No immigrant shall be convicted under the last preceding section if he was at the time physically unfitted to perform work or to perform the work assigned to him, or if the work assigned to him was of such a description or extent, or was assigned in such a manner or for such a rate of wages, as to be contrary to any provision of this Ordinance, or if the work has been unduly thrown out, or if any wages due on account of the work have been unlawfully withheld, or if he is entitled to the benefit of the proviso of section 95.

Minor offences by indentured immigrant.

First Schedule: Form No. 14.

111. Every indentured immigrant who—

(1) Is drunk in or about the buildings of the plantation, or while employed on any work; or

(2) Is drunk during any time in which he is required to be at work; or

(3) Is guilty of any fraud or wilful deception in the performance of his work; or

(4) Uses to his employer, or to any person placed by him in authority on the plantation, any abusive or insulting word or gesture,

shall be liable to a penalty not exceeding five dollars or to imprisonment for any term not exceeding fourteen days.

More serious offences by indentured immigrant.

First Schedule: Form No. 15.

112. Every indentured immigrant who—

(1) Uses to his employer, or to any person placed by him in authority on the plantation, any threatening word or gesture; or

(2) By negligence, carelessness, or other improper conduct, endangers, damages, or causes or suffers to be endangered or damaged, or sells any property of his employer, (and in any proceeding for a breach of this provision it shall not be necessary to state or prove the name of such employer); or

(3) Hinders or molests any other immigrant in the performance of his work; or

(4) Persuades or attempts to persuade any other immigrant unlawfully to refuse, absent himself from, or desist from work,

shall be liable to a penalty not exceeding twenty-four dollars or to imprisonment for any term not exceeding two months.

Keeping of Register of Cases before Magistrate.

First Schedule: Form No. 16.

113. Every manager of a plantation on which there are indentured immigrants shall keep a Register of all Cases under this Ordinance in which he is concerned before the Magistrate.

Prohibition of keeping of shop on or near plantation by manager, etc.

114. (1) No shop shall be kept by any manager, overseer, driver, ranger, or other officer of any plantation, either upon such plantation or within five miles thereof.

(2) If any shop is so kept by or for the profit of any such manager or by or for the profit of any of his subordinate officers with his permission, connivance, or knowledge, such manager shall be liable, on the complaint of the Immigration Agent-General, to a penalty not exceeding one hundred dollars; and every person, other than a manager, who actually keeps a shop in contravention of this section shall be liable to a penalty not exceeding forty-eight dollars.

Provisions with regard to Immigrants not under Indenture.

Duty of person employing immigrant not under indenture.

115. No person shall employ any immigrant not under indenture until such immigrant has produced his certificate of exemption from labour, and every person who receives into his employment any such immigrant before he has indorsed on the certificate of exemption

from labour produced by such immigrant his name and the day when such certificate was so produced shall be liable to a penalty not exceeding twenty-four dollars, one moiety whereof shall be paid to the informer.

Duties of manager of plantation on which are employed immigrants not under indenture.

116. (1) Every manager of a plantation shall be bound to enter in a book to be kept by him the name and description of every immigrant not under indenture employed on such plantation, and the amount of wages earned by each such immigrant in each week, and shall pay to each such immigrant the wages due to such immigrant for the work performed by him on such plantation.

(2) Every manager of a plantation who contravenes this section, and every manager of a plantation on which any immigrant not under indenture performs any work for the benefit of the proprietor of the plantation before the name and description of such immigrant have been entered in such book, or before the certificate of exemption from labour held by such immigrant has been duly indorsed by such manager, shall be liable to a penalty not exceeding twenty-four dollars for each such immigrant who so performs any work, one moiety whereof shall be paid to the informer.

Other hirings of free immigrants.

117. The hiring, whether verbal or in writing, of any immigrant possessed of or entitled to a certificate of exemption from labour shall be subject to and governed by the provisions of any Ordinance now or hereafter to be in force regulating the hirings of servants in husbandry and other labourers, not being immigrants within the meaning of this Ordinance: Provided that no contract of any such immigrant shall be taken to be an indenture within the meaning of this Ordinance: Provided also that no hiring or contract for service of any such immigrant shall be taken to be a contract for more than one month certain from the time of entering into service, any express or implied agreement to the contrary notwithstanding.

PART IX.

LEAVE AND DESERTION.

Leave.

Obligation of residence.

118. Every indentured immigrant shall be bound to reside on the plantation whereon he is under indenture.

Unlawful absence from plantation. First Schedule: Form No. 17.

119. Every indentured immigrant who—

(1) Absents himself without leave from the plantation during the time in which he is required to be at work; or

(2) Absents himself without leave from the plantation in such manner or for such time as to constitute a breach of the obligation of residence,

shall be liable, if a male, to pay a fine not exceeding ten dollars, and, if a female, to pay a fine not exceeding five dollars.

Right of immigrant to leave of absence after certain amount of work done.

120. (1) Every indentured immigrant who has earned wages at the rate of at least one dollar and fifty cents per week during two consecutive weeks shall be entitled to leave of absence from the plantation at the rate of one day and night for every such undivided period of two weeks, and the employer shall, on the request of such immigrant, furnish him with a free pass accordingly for as many days as he may require and be entitled to leave of absence for: Provided that no immigrant shall be entitled to leave of absence, and no employer, except for special cause to be stated in the pass, shall be entitled to give leave to any indentured immigrant, for more than seven days at any one time, or for more than twenty-six days in any one year; and no pass extended for special cause shall be given for more than twenty-six days at any one time, or more than once to the same immigrant in any one year.

(2) Every employer who—

(*a*) Refuses a pass to which any immigrant is entitled; or

(*b*) Gives a pass in excess of the limits allowed by this Ordinance; or

(*c*) States in any pass extended as aforesaid a false, frivolous, or pretended cause for such extension,

shall be liable, on the complaint of the Immigration Agent-General, to pay a fine not exceeding twenty-four dollars.

Leaving plantation for purpose of making complaint.

First Schedule: Form No. 18.

121. () Any indentured immigrant who, having been refused a pass by his employer, absents himself from his plantation in order, on reasonable grounds, to lay an information or make a complaint against the employer or manager before the Magistrate, or to make any reasonable complaint of his treatment and to ask counsel of the Immigration Agent-General or of any Immigration Agent, shall be entitled to receive from such Magistrate, Immigration Agent-General, or Immigration Agent, a certificate that such absence was for reasonable cause: Provided that no such certificate shall be given, or, if given, shall be valid, if the immigrant—

(*a*) Has absented himself from the plantation with any weapon or any agricultural implement; or

(*b*) Has absented himself from the plantation in company with more than five other immigrants.

(2) No immigrant who possesses such a certificate, and who on his return to the plantation produces the same to his employer, shall be liable to be convicted under section 119 in respect of the day on which such certificate was granted, or in respect of such time before and after as may be necessary to allow of his free going and returning.

(3) Where the Magistrate, Immigration Agent-General, or Immigration Agent is of opinion that such complaint is ill-founded or frivolous, he shall so certify in writing to the employer. THE IMMIGRATION ORDINANCE, 1891.

Desertion.

122. (1) If any indentured immigrant without leave absents himself for seven days from the plantation whereon he is under indenture, he shall be taken to be a deserter from the plantation; and the manager shall thereupon prefer a charge against him in that behalf before the Magistrate and apply for a warrant for his apprehension. Desertion. First Schedule: Form No. 19: Form No. 20.

(2) Such warrant shall be granted free of cost, and shall be directed to all Constables.

(3) A copy of such warrant shall be forwarded by the Magistrate to the Inspector-General of Police within seven days from the day on which such charge is made, and any copy thereof, certified under the hand of the Inspector-General of Police, shall be executable in the same manner as the original warrant.

123. (1) Every manager who does not prefer a charge in the proper form before the Magistrate against an indentured immigrant who has deserted within fourteen days after such immigrant has become a deserter shall be liable, on the complaint of the Immigration Agent-General, to pay a fine not exceeding twenty-four dollars, and shall, in addition to such fine, pay an absolute accumulating fine of twenty-four cents for every day of such default. Default by manager in not preferring charge against deserter.

(2) No entry shall be made in the Register of Defaulters in respect of any desertion or in respect of any imprisonment for the desertion of any immigrant where the manager has not preferred such charge against the immigrant for such desertion within such time.

124. Every indentured immigrant who deserts from his plantation shall be liable to a penalty not exceeding twenty-four dollars or to imprisonment for any term not exceeding two months, or to both such penalty and imprisonment. Punishment of deserter.

Supplemental Provisions.

125. If the original charge for desertion made against an indentured immigrant is lost or mislaid, the Magistrate may proceed to deal with the case on the original warrant or on any copy thereof certified by the Inspector-General of Police. Loss of original charge for desertion.

126. (1) The manager of a plantation on which there are indentured immigrants shall keep a Register of Absences on Leave, and shall enter therein every pass granted by him to an indentured immigrant and every leave of absence granted verbally to an indentured immigrant which extends over the night. Keeping of Registers of Absences on Leave and Desertions. First Schedule: Form No. 21: Form No. 22.

(2) He shall also keep a Register of Desertions, and shall enter therein every desertion of an indentured immigrant from the plantation.

127. (1) Every Police Constable may, without warrant, stop any immigrant whom he may have cause to suspect of being absent from his plantation without leave, and may require him to show his certificate of exemption from labour or a pass signed by his employer. Apprehension of immigrant suspected of being absent without leave.

(2) If the immigrant does not produce any such certificate or pass, the Police Constable may thereupon take him into custody and carry him, if in Georgetown, to the Immigration Agent-General, if elsewhere than in Georgetown, to the Immigration Agent or to the nearest Police Station, and if the immigrant is ascertained to be under indenture to any employer, the Police Constable shall communicate with the employer, and the immigrant shall be detained in custody until he can be charged before the Magistrate of the District in which his plantation is situate, or until he gives security for his appearance to answer such charge: Provided that, if the employer so requires, the Police Constable shall cause the immigrant to be re-conducted to his plantation: Provided also that the Immigration Agent-General or any Immigration Agent may, without warrant, place in custody any immigrant who is known or suspected by him to be a deserter or absent from his plantation without leave, or who refuses to return to his plantation when ordered so to do by the Immigration Agent-General or an Immigration Agent; and any such immigrant shall be dealt with in the same manner as an immigrant taken into custody and brought to the Immigration Agent-General or to an Immigration Agent by a Police Constable under this section.

128. If any immigrant, on being brought to the Immigration Agent-General, or to an Immigration Agent, or to a Police Station by any Police Constable, wilfully refuses to give his name or the name of the ship in which he was introduced into the Colony, or any other information that may reasonably be required by the Immigration Agent-General, or by the Immigration Agent, or by the Police Constable in charge of the Police Station, for purposes of identification, he shall be liable to a penalty not exceeding five dollars or to imprisonment, with or without hard labour, for any term not exceeding fourteen days. Refusal of immigrant apprehended to give information.

129. If any indentured immigrant, while an inmate of the Immigration Depôt, without leave absents himself therefrom for seven days, he shall be taken to be a deserter, and the Immigration Agent-General shall thereupon prefer a charge against him in that behalf before the Magistrate and apply for a warrant for his apprehension. Such warrant shall be granted in the same manner as is hereinbefore provided with respect to a deserter from a plantation. Absence without leave from the Depôt.

130. (1) Every person who, not being entitled to the services of such immigrant under this Ordinance,— Employment of indentured immigrant by person not entitled to his services

(*a*) Employs or knowingly harbours any indentured immigrant; or

(b) Induces or attempts to induce any indentured immigrant to leave off work or to quite his plantation against the will of his employer,

shall be liable to pay a fine not exceeding forty-eight dollars, and, in the case of employment, in addition to such fine, to pay to the employer entitled to the services of such immigrant, by way of damages, at the rate of one dollar for every day on which such immigrant may have been so employed.

(2) If the person charged is the manager of a plantation, it shall be sufficient to support a conviction under this section to prove that such immigrant has been employed thereon in the service of such manager.

Disposal of indentured immigrant on release from custody.

131. When any indentured immigrant who has been arrested by a Police Constable or imprisoned is entitled to be discharged from custody or from prison, he shall without delay be conveyed by a Police Constable to the plantation whereon he is under indenture, and every such immigrant may be kept in custody while he is being so conveyed and until he can be so taken to the plantation: Provided that, if required by the Immigration Agent-General or any Immigration Agent, he may be taken to the Immigration Office or to the Office of any Immigration Agent.

Giving of certificate as to indentured immigrant brought in custody to plantation. First Schedule: Form No. 23.

132. (1) When any indentured immigrant is brought to the plantation whereon he is under indenture by any Police Constable, the manager of the plantation shall be bound to give to the Police Constable a certificate, stating the time when such immigrant was so brought.

(2) Every manager who refuses or neglects to give such certificate shall be liable, on the complaint of the Inspector-General or an Inspector of Police, to pay a fine not exceeding five dollars.

Reporting of indentured immigrant voluntarily returning to plantation.

133. (1) When any indentured immigrant who has deserted from the plantation whereon he is under indenture voluntarily returns to the plantation, the manager of the plantation shall report the fact to the Police Constable in charge of the Police Station nearest to the plantation.

(2) Every manager who neglects so to do for seven days after such return shall be liable, on the complaint of the Inspector-General or an Inspector of Police, to pay a fine not exceeding five dollars.

Habitual idler. First Schedule: Form No. 24.

134. If any indentured immigrant is absent from work without lawful excuse on twelve days in any one month or in any two consecutive months, he shall be deemed an habitual idler, and shall be liable to imprisonment for any term not exceeding three months.

Reporting of indentured immigrant on release from prison.

135. The Superintendent of the Penal Settlement and the Keeper of every Prison shall report in writing to the Immigration Agent-General when any immigrant who was under indenture at the time of his arrest for the crime or offence of which he has been convicted is discharged from any cause before the time at which his sentence would have expired, or when any such immigrant is imprisoned for a longer period of time than the time that was mentioned in his sentence in consequence of such immigrant not completing the proper number of tasks, or otherwise, and such Superintendent or Keeper shall forward such report as soon after the event as may be practicable.

Keeping of Register of Defaulters.

136. (1) The Immigration Agent-General or the Immigration Agent in each District shall keep a separate Register of Defaulters for each plantation whereon there are any indentured immigrants.

First Schedule: Form No. 25.

(2) The name and description of every indentured immigrant on the plantation who is sentenced to imprisonment, or who is convicted of desertion on a charge preferred in due time, shall be entered in such Register.

Making of entries in the Register of Defaulters.

137. Whenever any employer alleges that an indentured immigrant has been imprisoned or has deserted, and produces to the Immigration Agent-General or to an Immigration Agent a certificate, signed by the Magistrate or other proper Officer, that such immigrant has been sentenced to imprisonment or has been convicted of desertion on a charge preferred in due time, then, (but in no other case,) the Immigration Agent-General or an Immigration Agent shall make an entry in the Register of Defaulters of the facts stated in such certificate, and shall date such entry with the date when the same was made by him, and shall sign or initial the same, and shall also so date and sign or initial the certificate so produced, and thereafter return it to the employer: Provided that the Immigration Agent-General or an Immigration Agent may, before making any such entry, require proof as to the identity of the immigrant referred to in such certificate.

Correction of the Register of Defaulters.

138. The Immigration Agent-General or an Immigration Agent shall, from time to time and as often as may be necessary, correct the entries in the Register of Defaulters, so that such entries shall accurately state all the periods to be excluded in reckoning the term of service of each immigrant under indenture: Provided that the Immigration Agent-General or an Immigration Agent shall not obliterate any previous entry made in the Register of Defaulters, either by himself or any other person, and shall date every entry with the date when the same was made and shall sign or initial the same.

PART X.

MARRIAGE, DIVORCE, ETC.

Interpretation of term "immigrant" in Part X

139. In this Part, unless the context otherwise requires, the term "Immigrant" means any person introduced or coming into this Colony from Asia, whether directly or indirectly

and whether wholly or in part at the expense of the Immigration Fund or otherwise, and includes any descendant of such a person. THE IMMIGRATION ORDINANCE, 1891.

Marriage.

Keeping of Register of Married Immigrants arriving in the Colony. First Schedule, Form No. 26.

140. (1) The Immigration Agent-General shall keep a register of immigrants who are found to be married at the time of their arrival in this Colony.

(2) In such register the number of any registration shall be the same for the husband and the wife, and shall be continued in regular sequence.

Registration of married immigrants on arrival. First Schedule, Form No. 27.

141. (1) When any ship with any immigrants on board arrives in this Colony, the Immigration Agent-General shall inquire whether any of such immigrants stand in the relation of husband and wife to each other; and if he is satisfied, by the statements of the parties themselves and by such other information as he may be able to obtain, that the parties ought to be regarded and dealt with as husband and wife, he shall thereupon cause an entry to be made accordingly in the register mentioned in the last preceding section.

(2) The Immiaration Agent-General shall at the same time deliver to each of the parties a certificate of marriage.

(3) The persons so registered as husband and wife shall be deemed to be married, unless it is shown that either of the parties had a wife or husband alive at the time of registration, or that the parties are so nearly related by blood that a marriage between them was unlawful.

(4) The foregoing provisions of this and the last preceding section shall apply, with the necessary modifications, to the case of a male immigrant and a female immigrant arriving in this Colony in different ships and alleging that they were married before their arrival.

Exemption from fee for registration.

142. No fee shall be payable for the registration of any marriage under the provisions of the last preceding section or for any certificate granted thereunder.

Keeping of Register of Marriages of Immigrants contracted in the Colony. First Schedule: Form No. 28.

143. (1) The Immigration Agent-General shall keep a Register of Marriages of Immigrants contracted in the Colony.

(2) In such register the number of any registration shall be the same for the husband and the wife, and shall be continued in regular sequence.

Marriage of Christian immigrants.

144. With reference to the marriage of Christian immigrants the following provisions shall have effect:—

(1) An immigrant who, at the time of his or her arrival in this Colony, professes Christianity shall, immediately upon such arrival: and

(2) An immigrant who, at any time after his or her arrival in this Colony, is converted to Christianity shall, immediately upon such conversion,

as to capacity or incapacity to contract marriage, and the conditions subject to which, and the manner in which, marriage may be contracted, be subject to the general law of the Colony.

Prohibition of certain marriages.

145. No marriage shall be contracted under this Ordinance, or, if so contracted and registered, the same shall be null and void *ab initio*, where it is shown that either of the parties has, or had at the time of such contracting and registration, a wife or husband alive, or where either party is directly descended from the other, or where the female is a sister of the male, either by the full or the half blood, or where the male is a brother of the female, either by the full or the half-blood.

Notification of intended marriage. First Schedule: Form No. 29.

146. (1) Where a male immigrant, not being under fifteen years of age, and a female immigrant, not being under thirteen years of age, wish to contract a marriage, they may signify such wish to the Magistrate of the District in which they reside.

(2) The Magistrate shall thereupon call upon the parties to produce a certificate, signed by the Immigration Agent-General, to the effect that there does not appear from the records of the Immigration Department to be any impediment to the intended marriage.

(3) If such certificate is produced, the Magistrate shall call upon the parties to sign a notice, which shall be furnished to them free of charge by the Magistrate, and shall contain a declaration by the parties that, to the best of their belief, there exists no lawful impediment to their marriage, and, if the female is under fifteen years of age, that the consent of her father, if alive and in the Colony, or, if he is dead, of her mother, if alive and in the Colony, or, if her father and mother are both dead or absent from the Colony, of the Immigration Agent-General, has been obtained.

(4) The Magistrate shall thereupon give public notice of the intended marriage by posting up the notice for three weeks in a conspicuous place at the Court House nearest to the place of residence of the parties or of one of them, and by publicly reading the same upon each day during the said three weeks upon which he holds a Court at such Court House: Provided that if such Court is held more than once a week, it shall be sufficient if the notice is read on one day during each of the said three weeks.

(5) If the parties reside in different Judicial Districts the proceedings mentioned in this section shall be taken in each District.

Grounds of objection to proposed marriage.

147. No objection shall be admitted to any marriage proposed to be contracted under this Ordinance unless it is shown, to the satisfaction of the Magistrate, that either of the parties thereto has a wife or a husband still living; or that the parties stand in any of the degrees of relationship within which it is hereinbefore declared to be unlawful for persons to celebrate marriage; or, in the case of a male, that he is under fifteen years of age; or, in the case of a female, that she is under thirteen years of age, or, if she is under fifteen years of age, that the consent mentioned in the last preceding section has not been obtained.

THE IMMIGRATION ORDINANCE, 1891.

Making and decision of objection to proposed marriage.

148. (1) Any person who desires to make objection to an intended marriage of which notice has been given as hereinbefore provided, must make such objection to the Magistrate before the expiration of the aforesaid period of three weeks.

(2) If any such objection is made, the Magistrate shall, immediately on the expiration of the said period of three weeks, fix a day for the hearing of such objection, and shall cause notice thereof to be given to the parties who have given the notice of marriage; and at such hearing the person making the objection shall be bound to prove the existence of the alleged impediment to the marriage.

(3) If either party makes application for a review of the decision on such objection, the Magistrate shall defer the granting of any certificate as hereinafter mentioned until such review has been disposed of in due course of law.

Marriage after publication of notice.

149. (1) Within six months after such publication has been made, and not afterwards, and if no valid objection is pending or has been allowed to the intended marriage, the parties may appear before the Magistrate or either of the two Magistrates in whose districts publication has been made, as the case may be, and the Magistrate shall, on being satisfied of their identity, and that publication of notice of their intended marriage has been duly made, declare the parties to be husband and wife, and shall deliver to each of them a certificate of marriage.

First Schedule: Form No. 30.

(2) Within twenty-four hours after delivering such certificate, the Magistrate shall transmit a copy thereof to the Immigration Agent-General, and, in default of his so doing, he shall be liable, on the complaint of the Immigration Agent-General, to a penalty not exceeding forty-eight dollars.

(3) On receipt of the copy of such certificate, the Immigration Agent-General shall cause an entry of the marriage to be made in the Register of Marriages of Immigrants contracted in the Colony.

Marriage after publication of banns.

150. (1) Where an immigrant desires to be married by a Minister of the Christian Religion after publication of banns, he or she shall cause to be delivered to the Minister a certificate signed by the Immigration Agent-General, to the effect that there does not appear, from the records of the Immigration Department, to be any impediment to the intended marriage, and the Minister shall not publish the banns until he receives the certificate.

(2) The Minister shall retain the certificate and shall, within twenty-four hours after the marriage has been solemnized, indorse on the certificate the date and place of marriage, with his signature thereto, and forward the same to the Immigration Agent-General.

(3) Every Minister, who offends against the provisions of this section, shall be liable to a penalty not exceeding forty-eight dollars: Provided, that no complaint shall be brought for the recovery of any such penalty without the sanction in writing of the Immigration Agent-General.

Marriage according to religion and personal law.

151. (1) A marriage contracted after the commencement of this Ordinance between a male immigrant, not being under fifteen years of age at the date of the marriage, and a female immigrant, not being under thirteen years of age at the date of the marriage, both of whom, at the date of the marriage, are free from any disability mentioned in section 145, profess the same religion, not being the Christian Religion, and are subject to the same personal law, shall, if contracted according to the religion and personal law of such immigrants and registered under this Ordinance, be deemed to be valid as from the date of such marriage: Provided that, before any such marriage is contracted, the parties thereto shall first obtain a certificate signed by the Immigration Agent-General, to the effect that there does not appear, from the records of the Immigration Department, to be any impediment to the intended marriage; and no such marriage shall be deemed to have been duly contracted unless such certificate has been first obtained.

(2) If the marriage referred to in any such certificate is not contracted within three months from the date of the certificate, the certificate shall, on the expiration of the said period, become null and void.

Registration of marriage contracted according to religion and personal law.

First Schedule: Form No. 31.

152. (1) Within seven days after the celebration of a marriage contracted according to religion and personal law, the parties to such marriage, or one of them, shall deliver to the Immigration Agent for the district in which they reside, a certificate thereof.

(2) If default is made in delivering such certificate within the time aforesaid, each of the parties to the marriage shall be liable to a penalty not exceeding twenty-four dollars.

(3) The Immigration Agent shall forthwith transmit such certificate to the Immigration Agent-General.

(4) On receipt of such certificate, whether within the time aforesaid or otherwise, and on satisfying himself—

(*a*) That the requirements of the last preceding section have been complied with; and

(*b*) That, in the case of a female under fifteen years of age, the person acting as guardian was entitled so to act,

the Immigration Agent-General shall cause an entry of the marriage, with the necessary modifications of particulars of such entry, to be made in the Register of Marriages contracted in the Colony, and shall forthwith transmit to each of the parties a certificate of such registration.

Form No. 32.

153. Whenever the Immigration Agent-General issues a certificate under section 151, and does not, within three months and seven days thereafter, receive from or on account of the parties mentioned therein, or one of them, the certificate mentioned in the last preceding section, it shall be his duty to make inquiry into the matter, and, if necessary, to make a complaint against the parties who have made default in respect of such last-mentioned certificate. THE IMMIGRATION ORDINANCE, 1891. Making of inquiry as to contracting of marriage.

Property of Married Immigrants.

154. (1) If any female immigrant is deserted by her husband, being an immigrant, the Magistrate of the District, in which she resides, shall, on application made by her or on her behalf, and on being satisfied of the fact of such desertion, and that the same was without reasonable cause, and that the woman is maintaining herself by her own industry or property, give to the woman an order protecting her earnings and property acquired since the commencement of such desertion from her husband and from all creditors and persons claiming under him, and such earnings and property shall belong to the wife as if she were a single woman. Protection of property of woman deserted by her husband.

(2) The Magistrate shall cause a notice of every such order to be posted up for fifteen days in a conspicuous place at the Court House nearest the place in which such woman resides, and the husband or any person claiming under him may, during such fifteen days, apply to the Magistrate to annul the order.

(3) If any such application is made, the Magistrate shall hear the same and shall make such order thereon as may be just.

155. (1) If any female immigrant deserts her husband, being an immigrant and cohabits with another man, the Magistrate of the District, in which the husband resides, shall, on application made to him by or on behalf of the husband, summon the woman and the alleged adulterer before him, and, on being satisfied of the fact of such desertion and cohabitation, give to the husband an order protecting his earnings and property acquired since the commencement of such desertion from his wife and from all creditors and persons claiming under her, and such earnings and property shall belong to the husband as if he were a single man. Protection of property of man deserted by his wife.

(2) The woman shall forfeit, from the date of such order, all movable property given to her by her husband, and shall further forfeit all right to the community of property resulting from her marriage, and the husband shall not be liable for any debt which she may contract during such desertion: Provided that, if such desertion is afterwards condoned by the husband, any order made under the provisions of this section shall thereupon *ipso facto* become annulled, and the community of property shall take effect and subsist anew from the date of such condonation.

156. (1) Where a male immigrant and a female immigrant who are married to each other, or who have cohabited together, cease to cohabit, and either of them desires that the property, to which they or either of them are or is entitled should be divided, it shall be lawful for the Magistrate of the District, in which such immigrants reside, on application made to him by or on behalf of either of such immigrants, to summon such immigrants before him and any witnesses they or either of them may desire to be examined, and to make such order for the division of the property as may be just. Division of property of married immigrants.

(2) Any person, being a party to such proceedings, who refuses or neglects to comply with the terms of such order, shall be liable to imprisonment, with or without hard labour, for any term not exceeding one month.

(3) If, after the making of any such order, any such person refuses or neglects to comply with the terms thereof, the refusal or neglect to comply therewith, for a period of seven days, shall be deemed a fresh offence and so on *toties quoties*.

Protection of Wives of Immigrants, etc.

157. (1) Where any male immigrant threatens to murder, wound, beat, or ill-treat his wife or any woman with whom he may have cohabited or may desire to cohabit, a Magistrate or Justice of the Peace shall, on being informed thereof and on being satisfied that there is reason to apprehend that bodily injury may be inflicted on such woman, forthwith issue his warrant for the apprehension of the immigrant alleged to have used such threats. Apprehension and punishment of male immigrant threatening his wife.

(2) Any immigrant, who uses any such threats, may be forthwith arrested by any Police or Rural Constable, and may be detained in custody until a warrant can be obtained for his apprehension.

(3) Every immigrant, who uses any such threats, shall be liable to imprisonment, with or without hard labour, for any term not exceeding one month, and, on a second or any subsequent conviction, to imprisonment, with or without hard labour, for any term not exceeding six months.

158. (1) Where it is proved, to the satisfaction of a Magistrate, that there is reason to apprehend that an immigrant on a plantation may, from motives of jealousy, inflict bodily injury on any woman, and that it is expedient, on account of such jealousy, to remove from any plantation any immigrant under indenture on such plantation, it shall be lawful for the Magistrate to direct that such last-mentioned immigrant shall be removed to some other plantation, and that the indenture shall be transferred. Transfer of immigrant in case of danger from jealousy.

(2) Every immigrant, so ordered to be removed, may be detained in custody until his transfer to some other plantation.

Proceedings where injury to woman is apprehended.

159. (1) Where a Magistrate is informed, or where in any proceeding whatever it appears to a Magistrate, that there is reason to apprehend that any immigrant may inflict bodily injury on any woman, the Magistrate may, if he thinks fit, forthwith issue his warrant for the apprehension of such immigrant, and shall, whether he issues such warrant or not, make full investigation as to the circumstances of the case.

(2) The Magistrate may order any such immigrant to be detained in custody until the Immigration Agent-General can take such action as may be necessary.

(3) The Immigration Agent-General may at any time, for the reason above mentioned and whether after or without any proceeding taken by a Magistrate, order any indentured immigrant to be removed from a plantation, and any such order shall be deemed to authorize the detention in custody of the immigrant until he can be removed and his removal in custody: Provided that no immigrant shall be detained under this section for more than fourteen days.

Punishment of person enticing away wife of immigrant, etc.

160. Every person who entices away or cohabits with the wife of an immigrant, or who unlawfully harbours the wife of an immigrant who has left her husband without just cause, shall be liable to a penalty not exceeding twenty-four dollars or to imprisonment, with or without hard labour, for any term not exceeding three months, or to both such penalty and imprisonment, and, on a second or any subsequent offence, shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor and be punishable accordingly: Provided that no person shall be convicted under this section for cohabiting with the wife of an immigrant if he establishes, to the satisfaction of the Magistrate or Court before whom he is tried, that the wife was deserted by her husband, or that the husband compelled her to leave his house, or that such cohabitation was with the knowledge and consent of the husband.

Copy of proceedings for the Immigration Agent-General.

161. In any case arising under either of the four last preceding sections, the Magistrate shall, as soon as the proceedings are concluded, or sooner if he thinks fit, transmit a copy thereof to the Immigration Agent-General, who shall thereupon take such action as the circumstances of the case may allow and require.

Divorce.

Proceedings for divorce of immigrants.

162. (1) Where immigrants are married and one of them is guilty of misconduct entitling the other to a divorce, it shall be lawful for the spouse so entitled to a divorce to apply to Ma agistrate for an order dissolving the marriage.

(2) The Magistrate shall, on receiving any such application, summon before him the parties, and such witnesses as they may desire to be examined, and any persons whom the Magistrate may think it expedient to examine, and the Magistrate shall reduce the statements on oath of the parties and the witnesses into writing, and shall transmit such application and statements to the Registrar of British Guiana, in order that they may be laid before the Chief Justice for his decision.

(3) On such application and statements being laid before him, if it appears that the party applying for divorce is entitled thereto, the Chief Justice may deal with the application in a summary way and may make an order dissolving the marriage.

(4) The Chief Justice may require the Magistrate to take further evidence on the application and transmit the same to the Registrar, or may require the parties to appear before him and produce such evidence as may be necessary.

(5) On any such application and statements being laid before him, the Chief Justice shall have the same powers as the Supreme Court of Civil Justice would have in an action in the said Court for the dissolution of the said marriage, and may make any such order, on the same terms and with the same conditions, as the said Court might have made.

(6) Every order dissolving a marriage made under this section shall have the same incidents and the same effect as a judgment of the said Court.

(7) The fee payable in respect of any such proceedings shall be the sum of twenty-four dollars, and such fee shall include all charges in the Office of the Registrar.

(8) The said fee shall be payable on making the application to the Magistrate: Provided that nothing in this section shall affect the right of any person to apply to be allowed to sue *in formâ pauperis*.

(9) The provisions of this section shall only apply to marriages contracted or registered under the provisions of Ordinance No. 10 of 1860 or of this Ordinance.

Keeping of Register of Divorces. First Schedule: Form No. 33.

163. Immediately on the making of an order under the last preceding section, the Registrar shall transmit a copy thereof to the Immigration Agent-General, who shall cause it to be entered in a Register of Divorces of Immigrants to be kept by him.

Offences.

Punishment of person making false entry in register.

164. Every person who knowingly and wilfully inserts, or causes or permits to be inserted, in any register kept under this Part any false entry of any matter relating to any marriage or divorce shall be guilty of a misdemeanor, and, being convicted thereof, shall be liable to imprisonment, with or without hard labour, for any term not exceeding two years.

Punishment of person signing false declaration or certificate.

165. Every person who makes, signs, or attests any declaration or certificate by this Part required or authorized to be made or given containing a statement which is false, and which he either knows or believes to be false or does not believe to be true, shall be guilty of

a misdemeanor, and, being convicted thereof, shall be liable to imprisonment, with or without hard labour, for any term not exceeding two years. THE IMMIGRATION ORDINANCE, 1891.

166. Every person who forges or alters in any material particular, or offers, utters, disposes of, or puts off, knowing the same to be forged or altered in any material particular, any certificate by this Part required or authorized to be given, shall be guilty of a misdemeanor, and, being convicted thereof, shall be liable to imprisonment, with or without hard labour, for any term not exceeding two years. Punishment of person forging certificate.

Supplemental Provisions.

167. An entry, whether purporting to be an original entry or not, in any register kept under this Part shall be conclusive evidence, until the contrary is proved, of the marriage or divorce of the parties to whom the entry relates, and also of the date of such marriage or divorce, if the same is specified in the entry. Proof of marriage or divorce.

168. (1) Where any entry is by this Part required to be made in any register, *primâ facie* evidence may be given of such entry in any Court of Justice and in any legal proceeding by production of a writing purporting to be certified by the Immigration Agent-General to be a true copy of such entry. Use as evidence of entry in register and of certificate.

(2) Where any certificate is by this Part required or authorized to be given, *primâ facie* evidence of such certificate may be given in any Court of Justice and in any legal proceeding by production of a certificate apparently in accordance with this Part, and purporting to be signed as required by this Part.

(3) No proof shall be required of the handwriting or official position of the person signing any such certificate.

(4) Every certificate given under this Part shall be *primâ facie* evidence of any fact therein certified.

(5) The provisions of this section shall be deemed to be in addition to, and not in derogation of, any powers of proof under any existing law.

169. If the Immigration Agent-General refuses to register any marriage or divorce under this Part, any person aggrieved by such refusal may apply by petition to the Chief Justice to have such registration made, and upon such application, if it appears that the registration ought to be made, the Chief Justice shall order the Immigration Agent-General to make such registration, and may make such order as to costs as may seem just. Appeal where registration is refused.

170. Where registration under this Ordinance has been made of any marriage or divorce, any person aggrieved by such registration may apply to the Chief Justice to have such registration cancelled, and upon such application, if it appears that the registration ought not to have been made, the Chief Justice shall order the Immigration Agent-General to cancel such registration, and may make such order as to costs as may seem just. Cancellation of registration.

171. (1) Any application to the Chief Justice under this Part and the subsequent proceedings thereupon shall be as prescribed by any general orders made by the Chief Justice under this Part, or, if no such orders are made and subject to such orders, if any, the application shall be by motion and the subsequent proceedings shall be in accordance with the usual practice of the Supreme Court on motions. Procedure on application to the Chief Justice.

(2) All general orders made by the Chief Justice under this section shall be published in the Gazette.

(3) The production of a copy of the Gazette purporting to contain any such orders shall be *primâ facie* evidence of the due making and tenor of such orders.

172. Every order of a Magistrate made under this Part shall be subject to the review provided by the Summary Jurisdiction Ordinances. Right of appeal from Magistrate's order.

173. It shall be lawful for any person, on the production of a receipt for the sum of one dollar from the Receiver-General's Office, to have a true copy, certified under the hand of the Immigration Agent-General, of any entry made in any register kept under this Part: Provided that a Public Officer shall not be required to pay for any such certified copy required by him in his capacity as such Public Officer. Furnishing of certified copy of entry in register.

174. During a period of twelve months after the commencement of this Ordinance and subject, so far as they can be made applicable, to the provisions of this Part, the Immigration Agent-General may register any marriage contracted in this Colony between immigrants according to their religion and personal law before the commencement of this Ordinance; and the provisions of this Part shall, with any necessary modifications, apply to any such marriage so registered in the same manner as if it had been contracted after the commencement of this Ordinance. Registration of existing marriages contracted according to religion and personal law.

PART XI.

TRANSFER AND DETERMINATION OF INDENTURES.

175. If, within six months after the allotment of any indentured immigrant, he dies, or it appears that he has any such disease or other disability as may render him permanently unable to perform service under indenture, and if the employer sends to the Immigration Agent-General a certificate of the death, disease, or disability of such immigrant under the hand of the Government Medical Officer of the District, specifying the particulars of such death, disease or disability, the Immigration Agent-General may declare the indenture of Declaring of indenture void in case of death or disability of immigrant within six months after allotment

of such immigrant void; and the indenture fee paid in respect of such immigrant shall thereupon become repayable to the employer out of the Immigration Fund.

Computation of commutation money.

176. The commutation money payable under this Ordinance on the determination or transfer of the indenture of any immigrant shall be calculated at the rate, for every year or portion of a year remaining unexpired of such indenture, of one-fifth of the indenture fee which may have been paid by the employer in respect of such indenture, together with interest thereon at the rate of five per cent. per annum since the commencement of the indenture; and all such commutation money shall be paid into the Immigration Fund, and shall be payable thereout to the employer: Provided that if any immigrant wishes to determine his indenture within one year after arrival, he shall pay the whole cost of his introduction.

Commutation by husband or wife.

177. Any indentured immigrant who is married to a wife or husband indentured on another plantation shall be entitled, upon giving three months' notice to the employer, to determine his or her own indenture on payment of the commutation money; and if the employer of such wife or husband, on the request of the commuting immigrant, advances the commutation money, the commuting immigrant may be re-indentured to such employer for a period equal to the unexpired remainder of the indenture so commuted.

Commutation by mother of minor.

178. On the termination of the indenture of any female immigrant, whether by expiration of time, by commutation, or otherwise, she shall be entitled to remove with her from the plantation her minor and infant children, on payment of the commutation money for any such minor under indenture in respect of whose indenture the employer may have paid any indenture fee; and if such female immigrant so removes in order to become indentured to a new employer, and such employer advances, on her request, the commutation money of any such minor immigrant, the minor may be re-indentured to such employer for a period equal to the unexpired remainder of the indenture so commuted.

Determination of indenture by the Immigration Agent-General on payment of commutation money.

179. The Immigration Agent-General may, with the sanction in writing of the Governor, at any time determine the indenture of any immigrant on paying to the employer of such immigrant the commutation money: Provided that the Immigration Agent-General may, with the like sanction, indenture the immigrant to any other employer willing to accept his services for a term equal to the period of time of the previous indenture remaining unexpired at the time of its determination.

Transfer of immigrants.

180. If at any time it appears to the Governor, on sufficient ground shown to his satisfaction, that all or any of the immigrants indentured on any plantation should be removed therefrom, it shall be lawful for him to transfer the indentures of such immigrants for the remainder of their respective terms of service to any other employer who may be willing to accept their services, on payment of the commutation money, or, with the consent of the last employer, without such payment.

Transfer of immigrant on determination of lease.

181. Every lessee of a plantation whose term of lease expires before the termination of the indenture of any immigrant indentured to him on such plantation shall be entitled to have such immigrant transferred for the unexpired remainder of his term of service to any employer, approved of by the Immigration Agent-General, who may be willing to accept his services and to pay the commutation money: Provided that of any such employers the first option of having such transfer made to him shall lie with the lessor of the plantation.

Transfer of services of immigrant on sale, etc., of plantation.

182. In the event of any plantation on which an immigrant is under indenture being sold, either by private contract, or at execution sale, or by the Administrator-General, or being leased, or devolving by inheritance, devise, or otherwise, such immigrant shall render the same service to the purchaser, lessee, devisee, heir, or other new employer, his heirs, executors, administrators, or assigns, and for the same term, as he would have been bound to render to his original employer.

Other provisions as to transfer.

183. Other provisions relating to the transfer of immigrants are contained in Part VII and Part X.

Permissible removal, temporary transfer, and determination.

184. The Immigration Agent-General may,—

(1) On the request of any employer, allow all or any of the immigrants indentured to such employer on any plantation to be removed to any other plantation in the possession or under the management of the same employer; or

(2) Allow any such immigrant to be temporarily transferred for any term, not exceeding twelve months, to any plantation the owner of which may be willing to accept his services, and during such term such immigrant shall be deemed to be indentured to such other employer for all the purposes of this Ordinance; or

(3) On the joint request of any employer and his indentured immigrant, allow the indenture of such immigrant to be determined, with or without the payment of commutation money:

Provided that no such removal, transfer, or determination shall in any manner affect any lien of the Colony upon the original plantation, or the pecuniary liability of any employer to the Immigration Fund.

Determination of indenture for ill-treatment.

185. Upon report made by any Magistrate of the conviction of any employer by him under this Ordinance for ill-usage of an indentured immigrant or for the unlawful withholding of the wages of an indentured immigrant, the Governor shall have power to declare the indenture of such immigrant determined, and may thereupon direct the Immigration Agent-General to re-indenture such immigrant for the remainder of his term of service to any other

employer who may be willing to accept his services, and such other employer shall, if required, pay to the Immigration Fund, by way of indenture fee, the sum which would have been paid by such immigrant if he had commuted, and such sum shall be paid thereout to the former employer, if the Governor so orders.

Computation of duration of indenture.

186. (1) The indenture of an immigrant shall not determine by effluxion of time, unless the immigrant has fulfilled the legal obligations imposed on him by such indenture.

(2) Every indenture of an immigrant, although it may purport to be for a fixed period of time, is hereby declared to be for a term of actual service equal in duration to the period of time for which the immigrant has become bound to serve under the indenture, and every such indenture shall continue in force until the immigrant has performed service thereunder for such term.

Exclusion of certain periods in computation of term of indenture.

187. In reckoning the term of service of any immigrant under indenture for the purpose of ascertaining the time when such indenture determines, all periods of time shall be excluded during which the immigrant has been absent from his work for any of the following causes, that is to say,—

(1) Imprisonment: Provided that imprisonment shall not, for the purposes of this section, include detention in respect of any proceeding which results in the acquital or discharge of the prisoner, whether from want of prosecution or from any other cause; and

(2) Desertion:

Provided that no indentured immigrant shall be deemed to have been absent from his work, within the meaning of this section, on account of any desertion, unless such immigrant has been duly convicted of such desertion: Provided also that this section shall not apply to any imprisonment or desertion which is not duly recorded in the Register of Defaulters.

Prohibition of other transfers, etc.

188. Except as in this Ordinance provided, no indenture shall be transferred or determined either by agreement between the employer and the immigrant or otherwise.

Recording of transfers and determinations.

189. The Immigrant Agent-General shall record every transfer, other than a temporary transfer, and every determination of an indenture in the General Register of Immigrants introduced into the Colony, and shall deliver to the employer to whom any immigrant is transferred a new Indenture List, and such employer and immigrant shall thereupon be taken to be bound by such indenture accordingly.

PART XII.

CERTIFICATES OF EXEMPTION FROM LABOUR.

Granting of certificate of exemption from labour.

First Schedule: Form No. 34.

190. (1) Every immigrant who may have completed or who may hereafter complete any term of service under indenture, whether entered upon before or after the commencement of this Ordinance, or whose indenture may have been duly determined or may hereafter be determined under this Ordinance, shall be entitled to receive from the Immigration Agent-General, free of charge, a certificate of exemption from labour.

(2) The Immigration Agent-General shall record every such certificate in the General Register of Immigrants introduced into the Colony.

Granting of provisional certificate.

191. The manager of every plantation about to be officially visited by the Immigration Agent-General shall give previous notice of such intended official visit to the immigrants on such plantation, and shall on every such visit produce before the Immigration Agent-General every immigrant who, since the last of such visits, has completed his term of service under indenture, or who will, in the course of time within one month thereafter, complete the same, and the Immigration Agent-General shall deliver to every such immigrant a certificate of exemption from labour, and shall, if necessary, indorse such certificate with the word "provisional," and with the date at which such certificate will in the course of time become due.

Indorsement of provisional certificate by employer.

192. (1) So soon as any provisional certificate of exemption from labour has, either in the course of time or otherwise, become due, the immigrant may call upon his employer to indorse the same.

(2) Every employer who refuses or neglects to indorse such certificate when the same is due and when he is called upon so to do, shall be liable to pay a fine not exceeding ten dollars, and, in addition to such fine, shall pay to the immigrant an absolute accumulating sum of twenty-four cents for every day of such default.

Granting of certificate to disabled immigrant.

193. (1) The Immigration Agent-General may grant to any immigrant who is at any time, in his opinion, permanently disabled and unfit to perform service under indenture, and who is certified to be so by the Medical Inspector, a certificate of exemption from labour.

(2) In every such case the cause of disability shall be specified in the certificate of the Medical Inspector.

PART XIII.

PASSPORTS AND RETURN PASSAGES.

Granting of passport to Indian immigrant.

194. Every Indian immigrant who has obtained or become entitled to a certificate of exemption from labour, and who is desirous of quitting the Colony, shall apply to the Immigration Agent-General for a passport; and the Immigration Agent-General shall, within

THE IMMIGRATION ORDINANCE, 1891.

First Schedule: Form No. 35: Form No. 36.

one week from the date of such application, deliver to him, free of charge, a passport available for fourteen days from the date thereof, and shall register such passport in the Register of Passports; and the certificate of exemption from labour of such immigrant or his right to receive such certificate, as the case may be, shall thereupon be suspended.

Quitting the Colony without passport.

195. (1) No immigrant shall quit or attempt to quit the Colony unless he has previously obtained a passport from the Immigration Agent-General.

(2) Every immigrant who contravenes this section shall be liable to a penalty not exceeding twenty-four dollars.

Limitations of right to passport.

196. No passport shall be granted to any indentured immigrant, and no passport, except with the special permission of the Governor, shall be granted to any immigrant introduced into the Colony at the expense, either wholly or in part, of the Colony or of the Immigration Fund who has not resided in the Colony for at least five years after his introduction, unless such immigrant pays to the Immigration Agent-General a sum equal to the entire cost of his introduction, and such sum shall be ascertained and determined by the Immigration Agent-General.

Receiving on board ship of immigrant without passport wit intent to carry him out of the Colony.

197. (1) Every owner, master, or person in charge of any ship who receives or harbours on board such ship or elsewhere any immigrant who has not obtained a passport or whose passport has expired, with intent to carry such immigrant out of the Colony, shall be liable to a penalty of one hundred dollars for each such immigrant whom he may have so received or harboured, and, in default of payment of such penalty, to imprisonment, with or without hard labour, for any term not less than three months and not exceeding six months.

(2) Such ship shall be liable and executable for the amount of the penalty imposed by the Magistrate on such owner, master, or person in charge, and such amount, with costs, may be recovered and realized by the sale of such ship, her tackle, apparel, and furniture by the same process in execution as a sentence of the Supreme Court of Civil Justice against the owners of such ship would be enforced, commencing with a summation to be issued by the Provost Marshal directed to the person convicted and the owners of such ship, without naming such owners, requiring them to pay such amount.

First Schedule: Form No. 37.

(3) The charge for any offence under this section may be preferred by any person within two years after the commission of the offence.

Aiding departure of immigrant without passport.

198. (1) Every person who aids or abets the departure from the Colony of any immigrant who has not obtained a passport, or whose passport has expired, shall be liable to a penalty of one hundred dollars for each such immigrant whose departure he has so aided or abetted, and, in default of payment of such penalty, to imprisonment, with or without hard labour, for any term not less than three and not exceeding six months.

(2) A moiety of any penalty recovered under the provisions of this or the last preceding section shall be paid to the informer.

Right of Indian immigrant to return passage.

199. Every Indian immigrant who has completed a continuous residence of ten years in the Colony and has during that time obtained or become entitled to a certificate of exemption from labour shall be entitled to be provided, at the expense of the Colony, with a passage back to the port in India whence such immigrant sailed for this Colony, for himself and his wife, and for every son and daughter: Provided as follows:—

(1) No son or daughter born in the Colony of any Indian immigrant shall be entitled to a passage to India unless he or she sails from this Colony with his or her parent;

(2) Where any son or daughter of any Indian immigrant is a child under the age of twelve years, the Governor may refuse a return passage or a passage to India to such child, if it appears that it is desirable, in the interests of the child, that the child should remain in the Colony;

(3) If the child of any Indian immigrant is under indenture upon which any indenture fee has been paid, he shall pay the commutation money to the employer of such child; and

(4) Every immigrant who at any time quits or attempts to quit the Colony without a passport shall thereby forfeit all claim to a return passage at the expense of the Colony, notwithstanding he may have resided ten years in the Colony:

Provided, however, that the Immigration Agent-General may, with the express sanction of the Governor, in any particular case and for special cause, relax any of the provisoes of this section.

Granting of return passage to disabled Indian immigrant.

200. The Immigration Agent-General may order any Indian immigrant who has received a certificate of exemption from labour under section 193 to be provided, if he so desires, at the expense of the Immigration Fund, with a return passage to the port in India whence he sailed for this Colony.

Inspection etc., of ship with return immigrants.

201. Before the departure of any ship hired at the expense of the Colony having return immigrants on board, the Immigration Agent-General, assisted by the Medical Inspector, or in his absence or inability to act, by the Health Officer of the Port, shall inspect the ship and the immigrants, and ascertain whether the arrangements made for the passage and for the treatment of the immigrants on board are in conformity with the law, and shall make out a list of the immigrants on board such ship who are entitled to a return passage at the expense of the Colony, and shall deliver the same to the Surgeon Superintendent for the use of himself and the master of such ship, and shall certify upon such list the total number and

description of the immigrants embarked, together with the state and condition of such immigrants and that they have been provided with clothing suitable for the voyage. THE IMMIGRATION ORDINANCE, 1891.

202. The Immigration Agent-General shall transmit to the Governor his report on the inspection, and shall also require and transmit therewith the report of the Medical Officer who assisted in the inspection. Transmission of report of inspection to the Governor.

PART XIV.

REGISTERS, RETURNS, AND CERTIFICATES.

203. The Superintendent, Keeper, or other Officer in charge of any Prison, Hospital or other Public Institution of the Colony shall, on or before the twenty-first day of April and the twenty-first day of October in every year, make out and transmit to the Immigration Agent-General a return of all immigrants who may have died while inmates of such Public Institution during the six months previous to such months of April and October respectively, and shall transmit therewith any certificate given under this Ordinance which may be found in the possession of any such immigrant. Half-yearly returns of deaths of immigrants in Public Institutions.

204. (1) Every manager of a plantation on which any immigrant may be under indenture or contract of service shall keep a register book or register books. Registers to be kept on plantation.

(2) Such book or books shall be at all times open to the inspection of the Immigration Agent-General, of the Medical Inspector, and of the Government Medical Officer, and shall be produced in Court, if the presiding Judge or Magistrate so requires, in all proceedings taken under this Ordinance by or against any immigrant under indenture or contract of service on such plantation.

(3) Such book or books shall include the following particulars:

(*a*) The several Indenture Lists received by the manager on allotment of immigrants, or any copies of such Indenture Lists which have been certified by the Immigration Agent-General; First Schedule: Form No. 6.

(*b*) A Register of Dwellings of Indentured Immigrants; Form No. 7:

(*c*) A Register of Absences on Leave; Form No. 21:

(*d*) A Register of Desertions; Form No. 22:

(*e*) A Register of Births of Immigrants occurring on such plantation; and Form No. 38:

(*f*) A Register of Deaths of Immigrants occurring on such plantation. Form No. 39.

205. Every employer of immigrants shall, on or before the twenty-first day of April and the twenty-first day of October in every year, make out and send to the Immigration Agent-General a return in writing of the number of each description of immigrants in his service on the last day of the preceding month, and the Immigration Agent-General shall make out an abstract of all such returns, and of the returns made by the Officers in charge of Public Institutions, to be laid before the Governor and Court of Policy. Half-yearly returns by employer. First Schedule: Form No. 40.

206. Every manager who— Making of false entry in register, etc., by manager.

(1) Makes any false entry in any register or half-yearly return required to be kept or made by him under this Ordinance; or

(2) Neglects to keep any such register carefully noted up; or

(3) Neglects to make out and send in any such half-yearly return within the time limited in that behalf,

shall be liable, on the complaint of the Immigration Agent-General, to a penalty not exceeding twenty-four dollars.

207. Every Government Medical Officer shall, within one month after the end of each quarter, transmit to the Surgeon-General a return of all the cases entered in the Hospital Register within his District, and the Medical Inspector shall, in the month of April in every year, make out a statistical abstract of all such returns for the preceding year, with a report thereon, and a duplicate copy of such abstract and report shall be transmitted by the Surgeon-General to the Immigration Agent-General, to be laid by him, together with his own report, before the Governor and Court of Policy. Medical returns, etc.

208. (1) Every immigrant whose certificate of exemption from labour has been lost or destroyed shall be entitled, on proving to the satisfaction of the Immigration Agent-General, that he is then entitled to such certificate and that such certificate has been lost or destroyed, and on payment of twenty-four cents, to receive a duplicate of such certificate: Provided that the Immigration Agent-General may, if he thinks fit, grant any such duplicate certificate without payment of any fee. Loss of certificate of exemption from labour, etc.

(2) Every employer shall at any time be entitled to a duplicate of any Indenture List of immigrants delivered to him, on payment of five dollars or of ten cents per immigrant if the immigrants are less than fifty in number.

(3) Every employer and every immigrant shall be entitled to receive a certified extract from any register kept by the Immigration Agent-General, on payment of twenty-four cents for every such extract.

209. If any immigrant uses or attempts to use any certificate of exemption from labour or any pass signed by an employer, not being the immigrant to whom such certificate or pass was granted, he shall be liable to a penalty not exceeding twenty-four dollars or to imprisonment, with or without hard labour, for any term not exceeding two months, or to both such penalty and imprisonment. Use by one immigrant of certificate or pass of another immigrant.

Forgery of certificate of exemption from labour.

210. Every person who forges or alters, or offers. utters, disposes of, or puts off, knowing the same to be forged or altered, any certificate of exemption from labour mentioned in this Ordinance or any indorsement provided by this Ordinance to be made thereon, with intent to defraud, shall be guilty of felony, and, being convicted thereof, shall be liable to imprisonment, with or without hard labour, for any term not exceeding two years.

Forgery of passport or pass.

211. Every person who forges or alters or offers, utters, disposes of, or puts off, knowing the same to be forged or altered, any passport or pass mentioned in this Ordinance, with intent to defraud, shall be guilty of a misdemeanor, and, being convicted thereof, shall be liable to imprisonment, with or without hard labour, for any term not exceeding one year.

PART XV.

PROCEDURE.

Procedure generally.

212. (1) Every information laid and every complaint made under any of the provisions of this Ordinance shall be laid or made before the Magistrate of the District in which the offence was committed or the cause of complaint arose, and the procedure for the recovery of any fine or penalty or the enforcement of any imprisonment under the provisions of this Ordinance shall, unless otherwise provided by this Ordinance, be that provided by the Summary Jurisdiction Ordinances, and shall be subject to the review thereby provided: Provided that any such information or complaint against an indentured immigrant shall be laid or made within one month from the date of the offence or cause of complaint, or, in case of desertion, within one week from the date at which the deserter is apprehended: Provided also that if the Immigration Agent-General, on behalf of any indentured immigrant, wishes to bring any summary conviction or order or other adjudication of any Magistrate in any case of summary jurisdiction under this Ordinance in review before the Court, he may make his application for review at any time within one month after the hearing.

(2) Every copy of reasons of review or of any other process required by the Immigration Agent-General shall be furnished from the Registrar's Office, or by the Clerk to the Magistrate, free of charge.

Power to the Immigration Agent-General to act for immigrant.

213. Every information which may be laid and every complaint which may be made under this Ordinance by an immigrant may be laid or made by the Immigration Agent-General on his behalf.

Appearance of the Immigration Agent-General.

214. In any proceeding taken by the Immigration Agent-General under this Ordinance, it shall not be necessary for him to attend in person, unless he is a material witness, but he may authorize any Officer of the Immigration Department to appear on his behalf.

Appearance of employer.

215. In any proceeding taken by an employer against an immigrant under this Ordinance, it shall not be necessary for the complainant to attend in person unless the complainant is a material witness on the part of such immigrant, in which case the hearing may be postponed in order to his appearance.

Admissibility of evidence of defendant.

216. The defendant in any proceeding under this Ordinance shall be entitled to be sworn and to tender his evidence on oath; and every heathen immigrant shall make such oath or affirmation as he may declare to be binding on his conscience, and shall be liable, in case of falsehood, to be convicted and punished as for perjury.

Statement of ownership of property.

217. In any proceeding taken by or against an employer in which it may be necessary to state the ownership of any property belonging to or in the possession of the proprietors of any plantation, it shall be sufficient to name any one of such proprietors, or the attorney of such proprietors, and to state such property to belong to the person so named and another or others, as the case may be.

Proof of Indentured List, etc.

218. In any proceeding taken by or against an immigrant, any Indenture List or certificate of exemption from labour, and any duplicate thereof signed by the Immigration Agent-General, and every certified extract from any register kept by the Immigration Agent-General, shall be received in evidence of any fact therein recorded without further proof.

Power for Magistrate to order indentured immigrant before him to be conveyed to hospital.

219. (1) Whenever, in any proceeding before a Magistrate against an indentured immigrant, it appears to the Magistrate that such immigrant requires medical care or to be medically examined, the Magistrate may order such immigrant to be taken to the hospital of the plantation on which such immigrant is indentured, and thereupon such immigrant shall be conveyed by the Police and admitted to such hospital.

(2) If a warrant has been issued for the apprehension of such immigrant as a deserter and he quits the hospital without being duly discharged, the warrant shall revive and be in full force immediately on his so doing.

(3) When any such order is made the proceeding may be adjourned to any time mentioned or until after such immigrant is discharged from the hospital; and in this latter case the Magistrate, before continuing the proceeding, shall cause proper intimation to be given to the parties of the time and place at which the proceeding will be continued.

Imprisonment of indentured immigrant.

220. Any Magistrate who orders any indentured immigrant to be imprisoned by virtue of any conviction under this Ordinance may order such immigrant to be imprisoned either with or without hard labour.

THE IMMIGRATION ORDINANCE, 1891.

Admission of immigrant sentenced to imprisonment to bail in certain cases.

First Schedule: Form No. 41.

221. (1) Whenever any indentured immigrant is sentenced to be imprisoned under any summary conviction or order by a Magistrate for any alleged offence under the provisions of this Ordinance, and the Immigration Agent-General applies for a review of such conviction or order, the Magistrate shall thereupon admit such immigrant to bail in his own recognizance, in a sum not exceeding ninety-six dollars, to render himself to prison according to the adjudication in case the adjudication is affirmed, and the adjudication, if affirmed, shall be enforced in the manner provided by the Summary Jurisdiction Ordinances.

(2) If the immigrant has been committed to prison before the Immigration Agent-General has made the application for review, then and in every such case the Sheriff of the Country wherein the immigrant is imprisoned shall admit the immigrant to bail as aforesaid on receiving notice in writing from the Immigration Agent-General that he has made application for review.

Certified copy of proceedings before Magistrate.

222. (1) Every Magistrate shall, on application made by him, furnish to the Immigration Agent-General, free of cost, a certified copy of any summary proceedings taken or had by such Magistrate in respect of any matter arising out of the provisions of this Ordinance in which any immigrant is concerned, and such copy shall include a certified copy of the information or complaint, the evidence and the conviction or order.

(2) The Magistrate shall furnish such copy within seven days from the day on which he receives the application of the Immigration Agent-General for the same.

Copy of warrant of commitment of immigrant.

223. The Keeper of every Prison shall, on application made by him, furnish to the Immigration Agent-General, free of cost, a copy of the warrant of commitment or other authority by virtue whereof such Keeper detains in custody any immigrant for any alleged breach of the provisions of this Ordinance.

Notification by Magistrate of conviction of indentured immigrant.

First Schedule: Form No. 42.

224. (1) When any indentured immigrant is convicted of any offence committed by him after the commencement of this Ordinance, and is sentenced by any Magistrate to pay a fine or penalty, or to be imprisoned with or without hard labour, or both, the Magistrate shall state, on the face of the warrant of commitment, if the immigrant is committed to prison, that the person therein named is an indentured immigrant, if the fact is known to him, and shall, free of cost, forward to the employer of such immigrant, if such employer is known to him, or if the employer is not known to him, then to the Immigration Agent-General, a certificate, signed by himself, stating that such immigrant has been so convicted and sentenced, and the time, if any, during which the immigrant was detained in custody while awaiting his trail before he was so convicted.

(2) In case of desertion, the Magistrate shall also state in the conviction the date when such immigrant first quitted the plantation and the date when the charge was preferred against him for such desertion.

Notification by Magistrate in case of committal for trial.

First Schedule: Form No. 43.

225. When any indentured immigrant is charged with having committed any crime or offence after the commencement of this Ordinance and is referred by a Magistrate for trial at the Supreme Court of Criminal Justice, the Magistrate shall attach to the depositions taken by him in such matter, and transmit therewith, a certificate stating the time during which the immigrant has been in custody in respect of such charge before he was referred for trial, and whether or not the immigrant has been admitted to bail.

Certificate of conviction before Supreme Criminal Court.

First Schedule: Form No. 44.

226. When any indentured immigrant is convicted before the Supreme Court of Criminal Justice of any crime or offence committed by him after the commencement of this Ordinance, and is sentenced to be kept to penal servitude or to be imprisoned, the Registrar for the Country or the Clerk of the Court shall give to the employer of such immigrant, on his application, the certificate forwarded by the Magistrate with the depositions, and shall furnish to the employer, free of cost, a certificate stating that the immigrant mentioned in the certificate of the Magistrate was so convicted and sentenced, and shall state therein if the immigrant was admitted to bail, either before or after his trial, by any Judge of the Supreme Court.

PART XVI.

MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS.

Property of Deceased Indentured Immigrants.

Mode of dealing with property of deceased indentured immigrant.

First Schedule: Form No. 45.

227. (1) Every Immigration Agent shall collect and take possession of all the property of any indentured immigrant who dies in his District, and, with the sanction of the Immigration Agent-General, shall deliver or pay the same to any person who establishes a right thereto, or, in the absence of any such person, shall convert the same into money and pay over the amount realized to the Receiver-General to be remitted to the persons abroad, who may be entitled to the same.

(2) The Immigration Agent-General shall keep a book in which shall be recorded the particulars of any dealings with any such property.

Protection of the Immigration Agent-General, etc., in relation to property.

228. No appeal to any Court shall lie from any decision of the Immigration Agent-General in respect of any claim made to or against the estate of any decease indentured immigrant, and no action shall lie against the Immigration Agent-General or against any Immigration Agent for any act done or omission made by him in the administration of the estate of any such deceased immigrant under the provisions of this Ordinance.

Proceeding by manager on death of indentured immigrant.

229. Every manager of a plantation shall, without delay, notify in writing to the Immigration Agent of the District, the decease of any indentured immigrant, and shall also, with the notification of his decease, transmit a short inventory of all the goods, chattels, personal effects, wages and other assets which belonged or were due to such deceased immigrant.

Other provisions relating to property.

230. Other provisions relating to the property of deceased immigrants are contained in the Administrator-General's Ordinance, 1887.

Care of Orphans.

Appointment of guardian of orphan child of immigrant.

231. The Immigration Agent-General may commit the care and custody of any orphan child of an immigrant to any person (hereinafter termed "the guardian") whom he may think a fit and proper person to have the charge of such orphan child, and may change such guardian whenever he thinks fit.

Interference with guardian, etc.

232. Every person who—

(1) Wilfully interferes with a guardian in any of the duties of his guardianship; or

(2) Unlawfully removes or entices, or attempts to remove or entice, an orphan from the care and custody of his guardian,

shall be liable, on the complaint of the Immigration Agent-General, to a penalty not exceeding forty-eight dollars or to imprisonment, with or without hard labour, for any term not exceeding three months.

Keeping of Register of Orphans.

First Schedule: Form No. 46.

233. The Immigration Agent-General shall keep a Register of Orphans for the purposes of the two last preceding sections.

Regulation of Festivals.

Making of regulations for government of festivals.

234. The Governor may make regulations for the government of the festivals of immigrants, and of the processions held by them in connexion therewith, and for defining the routes of such processions, and for preventing obstructions of the public highway by reason of such processions, and for securing the due maintenance of the public peace and tranquillity during such festivals and processions.

Application of regulations.

235. Any such regulations may be either general and apply to every plantation or public highway of the Colony, or special and apply only to a particular plantation or public highway, to be specified in the regulations.

Contravention of regulations.

236. Every person who contravenes any such regulation shall be liable to a penalty not exceeding ninety-six dollars or to imprisonment, with or without hard labour, for any term not exceeding six months.

Prosecution for contravention.

237. Any prosecution for the contravention of any such regulation may be made by any Police Constable.

Questions as to Age, etc.

Decision of question as to age of immigrant.

238. Any question as to the age of an immigrant which may be raised under this Ordinance, other than a question in a Court of Justice, may be decided by the Immigration Agent-General, and his decision shall be final.

Penalty for contravention of the Ordinance not provided for.

239. In any case where no punishment is provided for the contravention of any of the provisions of this Ordinance, every person who is guilty of such contravention shall be liable to a penalty not exceeding twenty-four dollars.

Temporary Provisions.

Completion of existing indentures.

240. Every immigrant who may be under indenture at the commencement of this Ordinance, or who may be then liable to have his indenture prolonged, shall be bound to perform service under such indenture for a term equal in duration to the period of time for which the indenture may then remain unexpired or for which the indenture may have been or may be lawfully prolonged, and the indenture of every such immigrant shall determine when the immigrant has performed such service.

Existing Registers, etc.

241. Each and every register of whatever description heretofore kept by the Immigration Agent-General under any Ordinance relating to immigration and every Indenture List made under any such Ordinance shall, subject to the provisions of this Ordinance, be taken to be registers and Indenture Lists kept and made under this Ordinance, and shall have and shall be taken to have the same force and effect as if they had originally been required to be kept and made and had been kept and made under the provisions of this Ordinance.

Effect of existing indentures.

242. All indentures entered into on or before the commencement of this Ordinance and recorded in any of the said registers and Indenture Lists shall, subject to the provisions of this Ordinance, be deemed to be indentures entered into and registered under this Ordinance.

Case of existing Officers of the Immigration Department.

243. Any Officer of the Immigration Department who was appointed under any Ordinance hereby repealed shall continue to hold his appointment in the same manner as if such Ordinance had not been repealed, but subject to the provisions of this Ordinance.

Saving as to existing Medical Districts.

244. Nothing in this Ordinance shall affect the arrangement of the Medical Districts in existence at the commencement of this Ordinance.

Temporary use of existing forms.

245. Notwithstanding the enactment of forms in the First Schedule to this Ordinance, the Immigration Agent-General may allow any form in use at the commencement of this Ordinance to be used, either generally or in any special case, after the commencement of this Ordinance for such time, not exceeding twelve months, as he may think fit.

Continuance of existing regulations, etc.

246. Except in so far as they may be inconsistent with this Ordinance, all regulations and any dietary scale made under any Ordinance hereby repealed shall, notwithstanding such repeal, continue in full force and effect unless and until they are altered or repealed under this Ordinance.

247. The enactments mentioned in the Second Schedule to this Ordinance are hereby repealed. THE IMMIGRATION ORDINANCE, 1891.

248. This Ordinance shall come into force on the 1st day of September, 1891.

Repeal of enactments Second Schedule.

Commencement of the Ordinance.

Section 4.

SCHEDULES.

THE FIRST SCHEDULE,

FORMS.

TABLE OF FORMS.

No. 1. Summons on Inquiry.
No. 2. Oath on Inquiry.
No. 3. Affirmation on Inquiry.
No. 4. Register of Applications for Immigrants.
No. 5. General Register of Immigrants introduced into the Colony.
No. 6. Indenture List.
No. 7. Register of Dwellings of Indentured Immigrants.
No. 8. Scale of Rations.
No. 9. Case Book.
No. 10. Hospital Register.
No. 11. Pay List.
No. 12. Complaint for an Offence by a Watchman.
No. 13. Complaint for absence from Work, etc.
No. 14. Complaint for being Drunk, etc.
No. 15. Complaint for using Threatening Words, etc
No. 16. Register of Cases before the Magistrate.
No. 17. Complaint for being Absent without Leave.
No. 18. Certificate that Absence was for reasonable cause or the contrary.
No. 19. Complaint against a Deserter.
No. 20. Warrant for Apprehension of a Deserter.
No. 21. Register of absences on Leave.
No. 22. Register of Desertions.
No. 23. Certificate of Return of Indentured Immigrant to Plantation.
No. 24. Complaint against an Habitual Idler.
No. 25. Register of Defaulters.
No. 26. Register of Married Immigrants arriving in the Colony.
No. 27. Certificate of Registration of Marriage of Immigrants arriving in the Colony.
No. 28. Register of Marriages of Immigrants contracted in the Colony.
No. 29. Notice of Intention to contract Marriage.
No. 30. Certificate of Marriage after Publication of Notice.
No. 31. Certificate of Marriage according to Religion and Personal Law.
No. 32. Certificate of Registration of Marriage of Immigrants contracted in the Colony.
No. 33. Register of Divorces of Immigrants.
No. 34. Certificate of Exemption from labour.
No. 35. Passport.
No. 36. Register of Passports.
No. 37. Complaint against Owner, etc., of Ship for receiving Immigrant who had no Passport.
No. 38. Register of Births on Plantation.
No. 39. Register of Deaths on Plantation.
No. 40. Half-Yearly Return by Employer.
No. 41. Recognizance in case of Review.
No. 42. Certificate of Conviction of Indentured Immigrant by the Magistrate.
No. 43. Certificate of Reference of Indentured Immigrant for Trial.
No. 44. Certificate of Conviction of Indentured Immigrant by the Supreme Court of Criminal Justice.
No. 45. Register of Property of Deceased Immigrants.
No. 46. Register of Orphans.

FORM NO. 1.

Summons on Inquiry.

Section 19.

To *of*

Take notice that, under the provisions of the Immigration Ordinance, 1891, you are required to attend before me at in the County of on day, the day of 1 . at o'clock m., then and there to give evidence touching the matter of a certain inquiry, to be then and there lawfully held by me, on pain as the law directs.

Dated this day of 1 .

(Signed)

Immigration Agent.

FORM NO. 2.

Oath on Inquiry.

Section 20.

The evidence which you shall give before me touching the matter now in question shall be the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth; *So help you God.*

FORM NO. 3.

Affirmation on Inquiry.

Section 20.

I, do solemnly affirm that the taking of any oath is according to my religious belief unlawful, and I do solemnly affirm that the evidence which I shall give touching the matter now in question shall be the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth.

THE IMMIGRATION ORDINANCE, 1891.

Section 38.

FORM No. 4.

Register of Applications for Immigrants for the Season 1 —1 .

Number of Application.	Date of Application.	Name of Applicant.	Description of Applicant, whether Proprietor, Attorney, or Lessee.	Name of Plantation to which Immigrants are to be allotted.	Consents or Objections as of Lessor, Mortgagor, etc.	Number and Description of Immigrants applied for.				Total.	REMARKS.
						Calcutta Indians.	Madras Indians.	Chinese.	Others.		

Section 52.

FORM No. 5.

General Register of Immigrants introduced into the Colony by the Ship *on the* *day* *of* 1 *from* .

No.	Name.	Father's Name.	Sex.	Age.	Height.		Caste.	Bodily Marks.	Name of Native Place.	Date of Indenture.	Plantation to which Allotted.
					Ft.	In.					

Amount of Fee charged on partially Non-effective Immigrant.	No. in Marriage Register.	Indenture Fee Refunded.			Plantation to which Transferred.	Commuted.	Certificate of Exemption.		Sent to Eleemosynary Institution.	No. in Obituary Register.		No. and Name of Ship in which returned to India.	Year of Departure.	REMARKS.
		Cause.	Amount.				No.	Year.		No.	Year.			
			$	cts.										

FORM No. 6.

THE IMMIGRATION ORDINANCE, 1891.

Indenture List of *Immigrants ex Ship* 1 , *allotted to Plantation*

Section 52.

Register No.	Name.	Father's Name.	Sex.	Age.	Height.	Bodily Marks.	Date of Indenture.	Amount of Fee.	No. of Wife, Husband, or Parents.	REMARKS.

This Indenture witnesseth that from this date the Immigrants scheduled above have been duly indentured by the Immigration Agent-General to to serve as labourers and reside on Plantation for five Years, subject in all respects to the Immigration Ordinance, 1891.

Dated this day of 1 .

Witness: (Signed)

Immigration Agent-General.

Proprietor [or as the case may be.]

FORM No. 7.

Section 67.

Register of Dwellings of Indentured Immigrants on Plantation.

Letter of Range.	No. of Apartment in Range.	Name of Immigrant.	Sex.	No., Ship, and Year of Arrival.	REMARKS.

FORM No. 8.

Section 71.

Scale of Rations.

8 Ounces Rice.
3 do. Dāl or Pease.
1 do. Ghi or Cocoanut Oil.
½ do. Masālah.
2 do. Sugar.
½ do. Salt.
2 Pounds Yams (raw)
or either of the following—instead of Yams—viz. :—

2 Pounds Plantains without husks.
2 do. Sweet Potatoes.
2 do. Tannias.
2 do. Cassava.
1 do. Wheat Flour.
2 do. Corn Meal.
1 do. Rice.

} Equivalent to 2 lbs. Yams.

FORM No. 9.

Section 80.

Case Book of Plantation

Date of Admission.	Name.	Sex.	Age on Arrival.	No., Ship and Year of Arrival.	Disease.	Diet.	In-or Out-door Patient.	Remedies, Directions, Medical Comforts, etc.

THE IMMIGRATION ORDINANCE, 1891.

Section 80.

FORM No. 10.

Hospital Register of Plantation

Date of Admission.	Name.	Sex.	Age on Arrival.	Country.	No., Ship and year of arrival.	In- or Out-door Patient.	Disease.	Result.	Date of Discharge.	REMARKS.

Section 97.

FORM No. 11.

A.

Pay List of Plantation *for the Week ending* 1

Names.							Bitts.	Amount.	To whom paid.

B.

Pay List of Plantation

Names.						Bitts.	Amount.	To whom paid.				Bitts.	Amount.	To whom paid.

for the month of 1

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

THE IMMIGRATION ORDINANCE, 1891.

FORM No. 13.

Complaint for Absence from Work, etc.

Section 109.

BRITISH GUIANA.

The complaint of the Manager of Plantation in the Judicial District, in the County of taken [*on oath*] before me, the undersigned Stipendiary Magistrate for the said Judicial District, who saith that the Immigrant male, years on arrival, No. ex 1 being then under indenture on the said Plantation, on the day of 1 at the said Plantation, did, without lawful excuse, absent himself from work, namely, [*here describe the work*]

[*or* after having been directed by being a duly authorized person, namely, [*here state the capacity of the person*] on the said Plantation, to attend at [*here state the time*] at [*here state the place*] for the performance of certain work, namely, [*here describe the particular work as, for instance,* weeding one opening in Field No. 6 on the said Plantation] refuse (*or* neglect) to so attend]

[*or* refuse to begin [*or* refuse to finish, *or* neglect to begin, *or* neglect to finish [*as the circumstances of the case may require*] certain work, namely, [*here describe the particular work*] which said work the said had been directed by being a duly authorized person, namely, [*here state the capacity of the person*] on the said Plantation to perform,

contrary to the form of the Ordinance in such case made and provided.

(Signed)

Manager of Plantation

Taken [*and sworn*] before me this day of 1 at

(Signed)

Stipendiary Magistrate.

FORM No. 14.

Complaint for being Drunk, etc.

Section 11.

BRITISH GUIANA.

The complaint of the Manager of Plantation in the Judicial District in the County of taken [*on oath*] before *me*, the undersigned Stipendiary Magistrate for the said Judicial District, who saith that the Immigrant male, years on arrival, No. ex 1 being then under indenture on the said Plantation, on the day of 1 at was drunk in [*or* about] the buildings, while employed on certain work, namely, [*here describe the work.*]

[*or* was drunk during the time when he was required to be at work]

[*or* was guilty of fraud [*or* wilful deception] in the performance of his work by (*here describe the fraud or deception practised*).]

[*or* did use to his employer [*or* a person by his employer then placed in authority on the said Plantation as Overseer *or* as Foreman] abusive [*or* insulting] words [*or* gestures]

contrary to the form of the Ordinance in such case made and provided.

(Signed)

Manager of Plantation

Taken [*and sworn*] before me this day of 1 at

(Signed)

Stipendiary Magistrate.

FORM No. 15.

Complaint for using Threatening Words, etc.

Section 112.

BRITISH GUIANA.

The Complaint of the Manager of Plantation in the Judicial District in the County of taken [*on oath*] before me, the undersigned Stipendiary Magistrate for the said Judicial District, who saith that the Immigrant male, years on arrival, No. ex 1 being then under indenture on the said Plantation, on the day of 1 at did use to his employer [*or* a person by his employer then placed in authority on the said Plantation as Overseer *or* as Foreman] threatening words [*or* gestures.]

[*or* did by negligence (*or* carelessness *or* improper conduct) endanger (*or* damage, *or* cause to be endangered, or damaged, (*or* suffer to be endangered or damaged) certain property of his employer, the proprietor of the said Plantation, namely, (*here describe the property*)]

[*or* did sell certain property of his employer, the proprietor of the said Plantation [(*here describe the property*)]

[*or* did hinder (*or* molest) one an Immigrant, in the performance of his work]

[*or* did persuade (*or* attempt to persuade) one an Immigrant, unlawfully to refuse (*or* absent himself from *or* desist from) work]

contrary to the form of the Ordinance in such case made and provided.

(Signed)

Manager of Plantation

Taken [*and sworn*] before me this day of 1 at

(Signed)

Stipendiary Magistrate.

THE IMMIGRATION ORDINANCE, 1891.

Section 113.

FORM No. 16.

Register of Cases before the Magistrate.

No. herein.	Date of Complaint.	Complainant.	Defendant.	No., Ship, and Year of Arrival.	Charge.	How disposed of.	Date of disposal.	Punishment.	REMARKS.

Section 119.

FORM No. 17.

Complaint for being Absent without Leave.

BRITISH GUIANA.

The complaint of the Manager of Plantation in the Judicial District in the County of taken on oath before me, the undersigned Stipendiary Magistrate for the said District, who saith that the Immigrant male, years on arrival, No. ex 1 being then under indenture on the said Plantation, did unlawfully absent himself from the said Plantation without leave during the time in which he was required to be at work, namely, [*here state the time and describe the work*] [*or* being then under indenture on the said Plantation, on the day of 1 [*or* and on **days then next following, if the absence continues*] did unlawfully absent himself from the said Plantation without leave and did thereby commit a breach of his obligation of residence on the said Plantation contrary to the form of the Ordinance in such case made and provided.

(Signed)

Manager of Plantation.

Taken [*and sworn*] before me this day of 1 at

(Signed)

Stipendiary Magistrate.

**N.B.—This number cannot be more than five, for if the Immigrant has been so absent for more than five days in addition to the day specified, he becomes a deserter.*

Section 121.

FORM No. 18.

Certificate that Absence was for reasonable cause or the contrary.

This is to certify that the Immigrant male, No. ex 1 came to me on the day of 1 to complain of [*here state the matter of complaint*] and that I am of opinion he had reasonable grounds for so doing, [*or* that the complaint was ill-founded *or* frivolous.]

Dated this day of 1

(Signed)

Immigration Agent-General [*or* Immigration Agent *or* Stipendiary Magistrate.

THE MIGRATION ORDINANCE, 1891.

FORM No. 19.

Complaint against a Deserter.

Section 122

BRITISH GUIANA.

No. Plantation.

The Complaint of the Manager of Plantation in the Judicial District in the County of taken [*on oath*] before me, the undersigned Stipendiary Magistrate for the said Judicial District, who saith that the Immigrant male, years on arrival, No. ex 1 in height, bodily marks being then under indenture on the said Plantation, did, on the day of 1 without leave absent himself from the said Plantation, and did continue so to absent himself from the said Plantation, for the period of seven days then next following, by means whereof he the said then became, and now is a Deserter from the said Plantation, contrary to the form of the Ordinance in such case made and provided; and thereupon the said makes application that the said may be apprehended and dealt with according to law.

(Signed)

Manager of Plantation.

Taken [*and sworn*] before me this day of 1 at

(Signed)

Stipendiary Magistrate.

N.B.—These complaints are to be numbered consecutively on each Plantation in each year, from the 1st January to the 31st December.

FORM No. 20.

Section 122.

Warrant for Apprehension of a Deserter.

BRITISH GUIANA.

To all Constables of the Colony.

No. 1

Whereas a Complaint in writing has this day been made before me the undersigned Esquire, Stipendiary Magistrate for this Colony, at within the Judicial District in the County of by Manager of Plantation in the said Judicial District [*on oath,*] for that the Immigrant male, years on arrival, No. ex 1 in height, bodily marks being then under indenture on the said Plantation, did without leave, on the day of 1 absent himself from the said Plantation, and did continue so to absent himself from the said Plantation for the period of seven days then next following, by means whereof he then became, and now is a Deserter from the said Plantation, contrary to the form of the Ordinance in such case made and provided; These are therefore to command you, or either or any of you, forthwith to apprehend the said and bring him before me, or the then acting Stipendiary Magistrate for the said Judicial District, to be further dealt with according to law.

Dated this day of 1 at

(Signed)

Stipendiary Magistrate.

N.B.—Warrants for deserters are to be numbered consecutively in each Judicial District in each year from the 1st January to the 31st December.

FORM No. 21.

Section 126.

Register of Absences on Leave.

No _____

Name _____

Sex _____

No., Ship, and Year of Arrival _____

Number of days' leave _____

Whether verbally or on pass _____

No. Plantation. 1

The Immigrant

male, No. ex 1 indentured to Plantation has this day been granted leave of absence for day verbally [*or* on pass.]

(Signed)

Manager.

FORM No. 22.

Section 126.

Register of Desertions.

No.	Name of Deserter.	Sex.	Country.	No., Ship, and Year of Arirval.	Date when last seen on the Plantation.	Where supposed to be.	REMARKS.

THE IMMIGRATION ORDINANCE, 1891. Section 132.

FORM No. 23.

Certificate of Return of Indentured Immigrant to Plantation.

This is to certify that the Indentured Immigrant male, No. ex 1 was this day brought to this Plantation by Police Constable No. at o'clock, m.

Dated this day of 1 .

(Signed)

Manager of Plantation

Section 34.

FORM No. 24.

Complaint against an Habitual Idler.

BRITISH GUIANA.

The Complaint of the Manager of Plantation in the Judicial District, in the County of taken [*on oath*] before me, the undersigned Stipendiary Magistrate for the said Judicial District, who said that the Immigrant male years on arrival, No. ex 1 being then under indenture on the said Plantation, was absent from work on the said Plantation without lawful excuse on days in the month of 1 [*or* in the two consecutive months of and 1] namely, on the by means whereof the said has become an Habitual Idler, contrary to the form of the Ordinance in such case made and provided.

(Signed)

Manager of Plantation

Taken [*and sworn*] before me this day of 1 at

(Signed)

Stipendiary Magistrate.

Section 136.

FORM No. 25.

Register of Defaulters.

DESERTION.					IMPRISONMENT.			
Name and Description of Immigrant.	Year.	From	To	Number of Days.	Name and Description of Immigrant.	From	To	Number of Days.

Section 140.

FORM No. 26.

Register of Married Immigrants arriving in the Colony.

No.	Date.	Name.	Country.	No., Ship, and Year of Arrival.			Plantation to which allotted.

Section 141.

FORM No. 27.

Certificate of Registration of Marriage of Immigrants arriving in the Colony.

Immigration Office,

No. *Georgetown,* 1 .

I hereby certify that the parties hereunder named and described have been this day duly registered by me as married Immigrants.

Name.	Country.	No., Ship, and Year of Arrival.			Plantation to which allotted.

(Signed.)

Immigration Agent-General,

N.B.—*The number and date of this Certificate will correspond with the first two columns of the Form No.* 26.

FORM No. 28.

Register of Marriages of Immigrants contracted in the Colony.

THE IMMIGRATION ORDINANCE, 1891. Section 143.

No.	Date.	Name.	Country.	No., Ship, and Year of Arrival.	Place of Abode.	Place of Publication of Notice, if any.	Date and Place of Marriage.	Name of Officer, if any, before whom Marriage contracted.	Signature of Immigration Agent-General.

FORM No. 29. Section 146.

Notice of Intention to contract Marriage.

We, who are hereunder named and described, do hereby give notice of our intention to contract marriage, and do declare that, to the best of our belief, no impediment exists to such marriage, and [*if the female is under* 15 *years of age*] that the consent of the Father of

[*or, as the case may be, of*] has been obtained.

Name.	Age.	Country.	No., Ship, and Year of Arrival.	Place of Abode.

Dated this day of 1 . (Signed)

Witnesses to signatures—

E.F. A.B.

G.H. C.D.

If the female is under 15 *years of age, the following declaration must be added :—*

I, Father [*or as the case may be*] of do hereby signify my consent to the marriage of the said to

Dated this day of 1 .

(Signed)

I.J.

FORM No. 30. Section 149.

Certificate of Marriage after Publication of Notice.

I hereby certify that the Immigrants hereunder named and described have been duly married before me in accordance with the provisions of the Immigration Ordinance, 1891.

Name.	Country.	No., Ship, and Year of Arrival.	Place of Abode.	Place of Publication of Notice.	Date and Place of Marriage.

Dated this day of 1 .

(Signed)

Stipendiary Magistrate.

FORM No. 31. Section 152.

Certificate of Marriage according to Religion and Personal Law.

We, A.B. and C.D., severally declare as follows :—

1. We are both of the Religion and are subject to the same personal law ; and

2. We were duly married on the day of 1 at by and we severally say that such marriage was well and truly effected according to the said Religion and to the personal law to which we are subject.

(Signed)

A.B.

C.D.

We, E.F. and G.H., severally declare that we are of the same Religion and subject to the same personal law as A.B. and C.D. ; that we were present at the ceremony of marriage between them ; and that the statements contained in this certificate are true.

Dated this day of 1 . (Signed)

E.F.

G.H.

If the female is under 15 *years of age, the following declaration must be added :—*

I, Father [*or as the case may be*] of do hereby declare that I consent to the marriage of the said to

Dated this day of 1 .

(Signed)

I. J.

THE IMMIGRATION ORDINANCE, 1891. Section 152.

FORM No. 32.

Certificate of Registration of Marriage of Immigrants contracted in the Colony.

Immigration Office,

No. *Georgetown,* 1

I hereby certify that the marriage of the Immigrants hereunder named and described has been this day duly registered by me.

Name.	Country.	No., Ship, and Year of Arrival.	Place of Abode.	Date of Marriage.

(Signed)

Immigration Agent-General.

N.B.—*The number and date of the Certificate will correspond with this first two columns of the Form No. 28.*

Section 163.

FORM No. 33.

Register of Divorces of Immigrants.

No.	Date.	Name.	Country.	No., Ship, and Year of Arrival.	Date of Marriage.	No. of Divorce.	Date of Divorce.

Section 190.

FORM No. 34.

Certificate of Exemption from Labour.

BRITISH GUIANA.

I hereby certify that the undermentioned Immigrant has completed Term of Service under Indenture on Plantation

Name of Immigrant	
Father's Name	
Sex	
Age on Arrival	
Height	
No., Ship, and Year of Arrival... ...	
Date of Indenture	
Bodily Marks	
Number of Certificate	
Date of Issue	

Dated this day of 1

(Signed)

Immigration Agent.

Section 194.

FORM No. 35.

Passport.

BRITISH GUIANA.

Immigration Office,

No. *Georgetown,* 1

PERMISSION is hereby granted to the undermentioned Immigrant to leave this Colony within fourteen days from the date hereof.

Name	
Father's Name	
Sex	
Age on Arrival	
Height	
No., Ship, and Year of Arrival ...	
Bodily Marks	
Plantation to which last indentured...	

(Signed)

Immigration Agent-General.

FORM No. 36.

THE IMMIGRATION ORDINANCE, 1891. Section 194.

Register of Passports.

No.	Date of Passport.	Name of Immigrant.	Sex.	Age on Arrival.	No., Ship, and Year of Arrival.	Plantation to which last indentured.	Date of Notice of Intention to leave the Colony.	Ship in which sailed.	Date of Departure.	Destination.	REMARKS.

FORM No. 37.

Section 197.

Complaint against Owner, etc., of Ship for receiving Immigrant who had no Passport.

BRITISH GUIANA.

The Complaint of taken [*on oath*] before me, the undersigned Stipendiary Magistrate for the Judicial District in the County of who saith that being then the owner [*or* master *or* person in charge] of a certain ship called the then lying at in the County aforesaid, did, on the day of 1 receive [*or* harbour] on board the said ship [*or here state where*] Immigrant, who [*or* each of whom] had not then obtained a passport [*or* whose passport had expired] with intent in so doing to carry such Immigrant out of the said Colony, contrary to the form of the Ordinance in such case made and provided.

(Signed)

Taken [*and sworn*] before me this day of 1 at

(Signed)

Stipendiary Magistrate.

FORM No. 38.

Section 204.

Register of Births on Plantation

Name.	Sex.	Date of Birth.	Description of Father.			Description of Mother.		
			Name.	Country.	No., Ship, and Year of Arrival.	Name.	Country.	No., Ship, and Year of Arrival.

FORM No. 39.

Section 204.

Register of Deaths on Plantation

Name of Deceased.	Sex.	Age at time of Death.	Country.	No., Ship, and Year of Arrival.	Date of Death.	Cause of Death.	REMARKS.

THE IMMIGRATION ORDINANCE, 1891. Section 265.

FORM No. 40.

Half-Yearly Return by Employer of the Descriptions of Immigrants under indenture to, or residing on, Plantation in the County of for the Half-Year ending

	INDIANS.				CHINESE.		OTHERS.		TOTAL.	
	CALCUTTA.		MADRAS.							
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Number of Immigrants under indenture at commencement of the Half-Year										
Number of Immigrants allotted during the Half-Year										
Number of Immigrants transferred from other Plantations during the Half-Year										
Number of Infant Immigrants who came under indenture during the Half-Year										
Total (A)										
Number of Immigrants whose terms of service expired during the Half-Year										
Number of Immigrants transferred to other Plantations during the Half-Year										
Number of Indentured Immigrants who died during the Half-Year										
Total (B)										
Total number of Immigrants remaining under indenture (C)										
Total number of Immigrants, not under indenture, residing on the Plantation										
Total number of Children, under ten years, residing on the Plantation										
Total (C)										

NOTE 1.—*From total A subtract total B, the remainder (total C) shows the number remaining under indenture.*

NOTE 2.—*Immigrants under 10 years of age are not indentured and therefore must not be included amongst Immigrants under indenture.*

EXTRACT FROM REGISTER OF BIRTHS.

Name of Infant.	Sex.	Date of Birth.	DESCRIPTION OF FATHER. (See Note 1.)			DESCRIPTION OF MOTHER. (See Note 1.)		
			Name.	Country.	No., Ship, and Year of Arrival.	Name.	Country.	No., Ship, and Year of Arrival.

EXTRACT FROM REGISTER OF DEATHS.—(See Note 1.)

Name of Deceased.	Sex.	Age at time of Death.	Country.	No., Ship, and Year of Arrival.	Date of Death.	Cause of Death.	REMARKS.

N.B.—*All Certificates of deceased Immigrants, issued by the Immigration Department, must be forwarded with this Return.*

(B.) SPECIFICATION of Indentured Immigrants in the Colonial Hospital, Alms House, Lunatic Asylum, or Leper Asylum, on 1

Name of Immigrant.	Sex.	Country.	No., Ship, and Year of Arrival.	Date when sent.	Institution.	REMARKS.

(B.) SPECIFICATION of Indentured Immigrants absent by Desertion on 1

No.	Name of Deserter.	Sex.	Country.	No., Ship, and Year of Arrival.	Date of Desertion.	Where supposed to be.	REMARKS.

(B.) SPECIFICATION of Indentured Immigrants absent by Imprisonment on 1

No.	Name of Immigrant imprisoned.	Sex.	Country.	No., Ship, and Year of Arrival.	Date of Imprisonment.	Terms for which imprisoned.	REMARKS.

NOTE 1.—*In the case of Creoles of Indian or Chinese parentage, their date of birth, birthplace, and full description of parents must be given.*

NOTE 2.—*The Specifications of Absentees should only include those absent on the last day of the Half-Year.*

I hereby certify that the above Return is, to the best of my knowledge and belief, in all respects true and correct.

Dated this day of 1

(Signed)

Manager.

FORM No. 41.

Recognizance in case of Review.

BRITISH GUIANA. Section 221.

Be it remembered that on the day of in the year of our Lord one thousand hundred and the Immigrant male, No. ex 1 came before the undersigned, one of Her Majesty's Stipendiary Magistrates for [*or the Sheriff of*] in the said Colony and acknowledged himself to owe to our Sovereign Lady the Queen the sum of ninety-six dollars, to be made and levied of his movable and immovable property, to the use of our said Lady the Queen, her heirs and successors, if he, the said fail in the condition indorsed.

Taken and acknowledged the day and year first above mentioned.

(Signed)

Stipendiary Magistrate.

Condition.

The condition of the within written recognizance is such that whereas the said was convicted before for that he and was thereupon sentenced by the said to be and whereas the Immigration Agent-General having, on behalf of the said made application for a review of the said conviction, the said is entitled to be released pending the determination of such application, if therefore the said conviction shall be confirmed and the said shall surrender himself into the custody of the Keeper of the Gaol at in the County of and thereafter suffer the said imprisonment for his said offence, then this recognizance to be void or else to stand in full force.

FORM No. 42.

Certificate of Conviction of Indentured Immigrant by the Magistrate.

BRITISH GUIANA. Section 224.

This is to certify that the Immigrant male, No. ex 1 under indenture on Plantation in the Judicial District in the County of was on the day of 1 convicted of and was thereupon sentenced to

[*If to pay a fine add,* which said fine was thereupon paid, *or,* was not paid and the said Immigrant was thereupon committed in default, *as the case may be.*]

[*If the Immigrant was detained in custody before conviction, add,* And that the said was detained in custody for day before his conviction while awaiting his trial.]

[*If the offence is desertion add also,* This is to certify further that the said so convicted of desertion as aforesaid, was proved to have first quitted the said Plantation on the day of 1 and that the charge for such desertion was preferred against the said Immigrant on the day of 1]

Dated this day of 1

(Signed)

Stipendiary Magistrate.

N.B.—*Where the Immigrant at once pays the fine imposed, there is no necessity for this certificate, unless he has been detained in custody awaiting his trial or is a deserter.*

THE IMMIGRATION ORDINANCE, 1891, Section 225.

FORM No. 43.

Certificate of Reference of Indentured Immigrant for Trial.

BRITISH GUIANA.

This is to certify that the Immigrant male, No. ex 1 under indenture on Plantation in the County of accused of was on the day of 1 referred for trial at the Session of the Supreme Court of Criminal Justice for the County of to be held on the day of 1 and that the said Immigrant has been in custody in respect of the said charge, for days [*or* and that he was admitted to bail on the day of 1 *as the case may be*].

Dated this day of 1 .

(Signed)

Stipendiary Magistrate.

Section 226.

FORM No. 44.

Certificate of Conviction of Indentured Immigrant by the Supreme Court of Criminal Justice.

BRITISH GUIANA.

This is to certify that male, the person mentioned and described in the Certificate of Esquire, Justice of the Peace, dated the day of 1 as the Immigrant male, No. ex 1 . under indenture on Plantation in the County of was on the day of 1 convicted by the Supreme Court of Criminal Justice and sentenced to be kept to Penal Servitude [*or* to be imprisoned] for [*and if admitted to bail for any cause, add,* and that the said was on bail from the day of 1 to the day of 1]

Dated this day of 1

(Signed)

Registrar [or Clerk of Court.]

Section 227.

FORM No. 45.

Register of Property of Deceased Immigrants.

No.	L. R. No.	DESCRIPTION OF DECEASED.						DESCRIPTION OF	
		Name.	Sex.	Age.	No., Ship, and Year of Arrival.	Date of Death.	Place of Death.	Name.	No., Ship, and Year of Arrival.

HEIRS.		Nature of Property and Value.	How realized.	How disposed of.
Relationship.	Residence.			

LIBRARY OF THE BOMBAY BRANCH OF THE ROYAL ASIATIC SOCIETY.

THE IMMIGRATION ORDINANCE, 1891. Section 233.

FORM No. 46.

Register of Orphans.

No.	Name.	Sex.	Age.	No., Ship, and Year of Arrival.	Father.	
					Name.	No., Ship, and Year of Arrival.

Mother.		Guardian.		Date of Adoption.	Remarks.
Name.	No., Ship, and Year of Arrival.	Name.	Residence.		

THE SECOND SCHEDULE.

Section 247.

TABLE OF ENACTMENTS REPEALED.

No. and Year of Ordinance.	Title or Short Title and Date of Ordinance.	Extent of Repeal.
No. 10 of 1860	An Ordinance to provide for the Celebration and Registration of the Marriages of Heathen Immigrants. [12th March, 1860.]	The whole Ordinance.
No. 16 of 1869	An Ordinance to provide for the due Regulation of the Festivals and Processions of East Indian Immigrants in this Colony. [30th October, 1869.]	The whole Ordinance.
No. 7 of 1873	The Immigration Ordinance, 1873. [1st July, 1873.]	The whole Ordinance.
No. 12 of 1873	An Ordinance to authorise the use of all Registers heretofore kept by the Immigration Agent-General. [12th July, 1873.]	The whole Ordinance.
No. 1 of 1875	The Immigration Ordinance, 1875. [16th January, 1875.]	The whole Ordinances.
No. 4 of 1876	The Immigration Ordinance, 1876. [30th December, 1876.]	The whole Ordinances.
No. 9 of 1878	An Ordinance to repeal Sections 19 and 20 of the Immigration Ordinance, 1873. [1st February, 1879.]	The whole Ordinances.
No. 30 of 1880	The Hospital Regulations Ordinance, 1880. [15th December, 1880.]	The whole Ordinance.
No. 1 of 1883	An Ordinance to amend the Immigration Ordinance, 1873, as regards the Rate of Interest thereby made payable on the Amount of Promissory Notes given for Indenture Fees. [13th January, 1883.]	The whole Ordinance.
No. 9 of 1886	The Medical Ordinance, 1886. [11th August, 1886.]	Sections 17 to 23, both inclusive.
No. 2 of 1887	The Immigration Ordinance, 1887. [16th February, 1887.]	The whole Ordinance.
No. 10 of 1887	The Immigration Ordinance, 1886. [25th May, 1887.]	The whole Ordinance.

R. D'R.—Reg. No. 5124J—702—24-3-93.

00142095

Digitized with financial assistance from

Government of Maharashtra

on 01 February, 2020